

Hafa Adai!

Author, historian, and instructor Sam McPhetres, 82. **PAGE 3**

\$15 per hour minimum wage for workers on federal contracts. **PAGE 5**

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Blanco death triggers special poll

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The untimely passing of Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) last Friday triggered a special election for his Precinct 3 seat in the House of Representatives at the 22nd Legislature.



Blanco

» **DPS: Doctor declared lawmaker's cause of death as 'sudden death'**

As this developed, Department of Public Safety spokesman Adrian Pangelinan said yesterday that, according to Commonwealth Health Center's Dr. Brian Strickland, Blanco's "cause of death was sudden death."

See **BLANCO** on **Page 4**

Travel Bubble kicks off with 92 visitors

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Travel Bubble that the CNMI government has been working on for several months

now finally kicked with its first batch of flights last Saturday, bringing in a total of 92 visitors.

According to Priscilla Iako- See **TRAVEL** on **Page 4**



TINIAN EXERCISE

A U.S. Air Force C-130J Super Hercules is unloaded at Tinian International Airport on Tinian in support of Pacific Iron 2021, last July 19, 2021. Pacific Iron 2021 is a Pacific Air Forces dynamic force employment operation to project forces into USINDOPACOM's area of responsibility in support of the 2018 National Defense Strategy which called on the military to be a more lethal, adaptive, and resilient force.

U.S. AIR FORCE/TSGT BENJAMIN SUTTON

Story on **Page 6**

US life expectancy in 2020 saw biggest drop since WWII

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP MEDICAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. life expectancy fell by a year and a half in 2020, the largest one-year decline since World War II, public health officials said Wednesday. The decrease for both Black Americans and

See **LIFE** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:38pm, July 26, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population
Fully Vaccinated: **70.1%**

Days since last community transmission **125**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	27,202
Fully Vaccinated:	25,190
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,258
Fully Vaccinated:	4,009
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	532

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,501	5	8,506
Recovered	8,311	8	8,311
Active	39	5	44
Deaths	143	0	143

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	190	0	190
Traced via Travel Screening	154	0	154
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE



LOCAL

Coldwell Solar chief executive officer Dave Hood, wants to bring Hillblom's 'mansion' back to life.

PAGE 2



BUSINESS

Vietnamese restaurant Pho Tam is a welcome addition to the CNMI's culinary scene.

PAGE 11



NATION

California's largest wildfire merges with a smaller blaze and destroys homes across the U.S. West.

PAGE 12



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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

New owner wants to bring Hillblom's 'mansion' back to life

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Wondering about the state of the iconic "mansion" in Dandan owned by late billionaire Larry Lee Hillblom? The place is now owned by Coldwell Solar chief executive officer Dave Hood, who bought Hillblom's house in August 2016 and is preparing to restore the multi-level property, which sits on five acres of land that leads to a secluded beach.

"I think I could fix and make it great again. So that's my mission," said Hood during a tour of the property last Saturday afternoon. He said he wants to bring the house back to its original state without making too many changes.

Hillblom, a co-founder and former owner of DHL Worldwide Express, died in



FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Coldwell Solar chief executive officer Dave Hood gives *Saipan Tribune* a tour of Larry Lee Hillblom's "mansion" in Dandan that he purchased in 2016. Hood wants to restore and bring the property back to life.

a seaplane crash off Anatahan waters on a flight from Pagan Island to Saipan on May 21, 1995, leaving behind an estate worth approximately \$550 million. The bodies of the pilot and a business partner were found, but Hillblom's body was never recovered.

Hood now says he and his wife got a permit to clear the house in August 2018, and subsequently power was hooked and they cleared the house of vegetation last year. COVID-19, however, delayed the restoration work.

"We will start again this summer but we're not really going to rush it. We just [want to] take the time to do it right," Hood said.

Hood first got on Saipan in 2013 as he was looking for a place that was "Hawaii-like" and it was at that time when he heard from people about the Hillblom place. Hood said the house is actually structurally in pretty good shape. There was no electric power, though, so the first thing he did was get the power restored.

Hood said they then hired people to clear the building of vegetation and clear it of termites. "So we've cleared everything and it's ready to be restored. We're just going to bring it back to life," Hood said.

Hood said he got a new 55-year lease of the property.

The house, which was soon abandoned after Hillblom's death, became a derelict. Saturday's tour showed that the house has no windows and there was nothing inside. The top deck and other parts of the building were littered with broken glasses. The swimming pool was filled with algae, dirty water, and other items. *Tangan-tangan* and vines covered the premises.

Hood said the condition of the property when he bought it was pretty bad as there were 25 years' worth of growth from vegetation and trees and the structure itself was ransacked. "Most of it was covered by jungle. It was very sad," he said.

Hood said he could not even recognize that a swimming pool existed outside the house.

Yet when he first found the property, Hood said he just fell in love with the property itself. "I thought it was unusual at the time but I then realized there's lot of properties like that here that's just abandoned," he said.

Hood said the restoration is going to be a lot of work and expensive, but it's going to be worth it.



Call **670.235-NEWS (6397)**
to learn more opportunities.

Mobil, Shell roll back gas prices by 10 cents

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The CNMI finally saw its first gas price rollback in 2021 last weekend, with both oil companies dropping their fuel prices by 10 cents.

After three weeks since the last increase, Mobil Oil Marianas dropped its gas prices by 10 cents early Friday morning. Shell Marianas followed its lead Saturday morning.

From \$4.82 a gallon, Mo-

DYS caps first session of summer youth camp

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Youth Services concluded the first session of its Summer Youth Empowerment Camp last Friday, July 23, at the Kagman Community Center with outdoor fun and games for its 50 participants and 30 volunteers.

The camp's first session was a two-week summer camp for participants from the ages of 5-12. From July 12 to 23, camp participants took part in many activities that DYS hoped would get the children active and leave them with valuable life skills.

According to federal program coordinator for DYS Jennifer Tanaka, camp participants were treated to various sports and recreational activities; "hula fitness"; presentations from the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the CNMI Public School System; an art project using recycled materials hosted by the CNMI Arts Council; field trips to places like the NMI Museum, Suicide Cliff, Kalabera Cave, Last Command Post, and Banzai Cliff; and many more.

Tanaka said that DYS holds summer camps annually, and the focus this year was

Man accused of shattering car's window

A man was arrested for chucking a cinder block at his sister's vehicle.

Elmanu Seman, 26, who allegedly threw a cinder block at his sister's car window back on July 22 and shattered it, was charged with assault and battery, and criminal mischief. His initial bail was set at \$10,000.

After appearing before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho last Friday for a bail hearing, Camacho granted Seman's request to post \$1,000.

According to court documents, Seman told police that he had an argument with his sister on July 22, at their mother's house. He said his sister told him that she took something that belonged to him.

He then noticed that his black pouch was missing so he assumed that his sister took

bil Oil Marianas reduced its Extra fuel price to \$ 4.72 a gallon. Mobil also dropped its Supreme fuel from \$5.27 a gallon to \$5.17 while its diesel also went down from \$4.93 a gallon to \$4.88.

An 18-year-old motorist told *Saipan Tribune* that he hopes the downward trend in fuel prices continues.

"I don't expect that prices will go down to like 2 bucks but I hope I can soon fill up my tank under \$40 like I used

on getting the camp participants outdoors and active as a break from the increase in online classes, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tanaka also said the summer camps are meaningful opportunities for partnering agencies to come out and teach the camp participants valuable life skills such as team-building, how to healthily deal with stress, and how to handle bullying.

DYS' second session of its summer camp will be for the 13-17 age group, and will run from July 26 to Aug. 6.

The partnering agencies that helped make both summer camp sessions possible are the Interact and Rotaract Clubs of Saipan, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, PSS, CNMI Arts Council, NMI Museum, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc., Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Systems of Care, and Historic Preservation Office.

For the second session, the Northern Marianas Technical Institute will be included as a partner, as the 13-17-year-old camp participants will tour the NMTI facility and learn more about the possibility of pursuing a trade in the future.

it because he allegedly saw her walking out of the room with something black.

When he asked for it, Seman said his sister acted dumb.

Seman said when his sister saw that he had picked up half of a cinder block, she jumped into her car. He told her that if she didn't open her car door, he would crack it by throwing the cinder block at it, which he allegedly did.

Seman told police that he did not intend to throw it at her, just to crack the window.

At the scene, responding police officers said they observed that the driver-side window of the victim's car was shattered.

Police also observed a woman in the driver's seat with parts of the shattered window on her arm. (*Kimberly B. Esmores*)

to," he said.

Another motorist, a 57-year-

old male, said it's about time prices went down. "Prices were getting ridiculous. Almost \$5 a gallon for regular fuel? That's crazy. I remember

back when I could get almost two gallons with \$5," he said.

Guam also reduced its fuel prices from \$4.72 to \$4.62.

According to various me-

dia outlets, worldwide, fuel prices have been relatively stable in the last month with fuel neither increasing or decreasing.

Author, historian, and instructor Sam McPhetres, 82

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Published author, historian, and long-time instructor at the Northern Marianas College Samuel F. McPhetres passed away at the Commonwealth Health Center last Saturday at the age of 82.

On Sunday, NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guer-

rero issued a statement eulogizing McPhetres. Before retiring from NMC in 2012, McPhetres was a political science and history instructor at the college for almost 30 years.

"The NMC Proa Community is deeply saddened by the passing of Sam



McPhetres

McPhetres, who taught at the college for nearly three decades and whose contributions to the institution have been extraordinary. Thousands of students have been guided, inspired, and educated by Mr. McPhetres, and his colleagues at the college have

looked to him for his advice and counsel. His research and work in Marianas and Pacific history have also been widely lauded and recognized. We express our condolences to Sam's family and will make other announcements later this week about how the college will be honoring his memory," said Deleon Guerrero.

McPhetres graduated from the University of Califor-

See AUTHOR on Next Page

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-030**

SUBMISSION DATE: August 25, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Hazard Elimination at the Intersection of Route 31 (Chalan Monsignor Guerrero) and Route 307 (Chalan Antonio Apa). Q-THS-0035 (301), Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after July 27, 2021 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 14, 2021, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 19, 2021** to **Ms. Lorraine Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-OGM-128**

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 16, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR COVID-19 EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. EPIPHANIO CABRERA, ADMINISTRATOR OF OGM, VIA EMAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-OGM-145**

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 13, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. EPIPHANIO CABRERA, ADMINISTRATOR OF OGM, VIA EMAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR

**INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB21-OPA-001**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: August 3, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) DELL SERVERS"

THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, LOCATED AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (MONDAY - FRIDAY, 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM, CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS).

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MICHELLE A. CAMACHO, OPA PROCUREMENT OFFICER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR E-MAIL TO mcamacho@opacnmi.com.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI OPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC § 130-30-725 AND § 130-30-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR (OPA) RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE OPA. ALL BIDS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE OPA AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE BIDDERS.

/S/ KINA B. PETER, CPA
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/S/ MICHELLE A. CAMACHO
PROCUREMENT OFFICER

CNMI GOP mourns loss of Blanco

The CNMI Republican Party joins the entire CNMI community and the wider Micronesian region in mourning the passing of Rep. Ivan Alafonso Blanco (R-Saipan), who served as a Republican Party Representative in Precinct 3 and was slated to be the Republican Party senatorial candidate for the seat for the 3rd Senatorial District.

In a statement on behalf of the CNMI Republican Party, president James Ada said the following:



Blanco

"There are no words that can truly capture the pain and emptiness we all feel for the passing of our dear friend and dedicated servant of the public, Ivan. In the days following the news of his departure, we have all witnessed the tremendous outpouring of sorrow from the CNMI people and the many friends and supporters he has made throughout the Micronesian region.

"Ivan was a leader with a keen understanding and compassion for

those around him. He approached every issue with humor and wisdom that uplifted and motivated his peers, as well as those he represented. In visits to those in Precinct 3, his passion to listen, understand, and empathize with the needs of his community was inspirational.

"His service was recognized throughout the nation as well. Recently, I was asked to convey the condolences and prayers of the National Republican Party Chairwoman, Ronna McDaniel.

"The entire Republican Party, his

friends, supporters and colleagues in his call to service all express our sincere gratitude for the life Ivan has lived in service to his community, and express our heartfelt condolences and prayers to his wife, Carmen, his children, Lilly, JC, Kide and Paige, and all those who knew and loved him.

"Ivan was a leader in our islands, and we have all learned from his lessons of faith, humility, wisdom,

and compassion. We should all continue to serve our community in this spirit and with his memory in the years ahead."

Blanco was a two-term Republican representative in the CNMI House of Representatives and was the Republican candidate for the 3rd Senatorial District to represent Saipan and the Northern Islands in the CNMI Senate. (PR)

Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods is newest NMC ProaPerks Partner

Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations. All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 20% discount on all regularly priced items (items on sale are not included). The NMC ProaPerks program provides exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

NMC in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks. Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (NMC)



Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion to ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks. NMC

LIFE

From Page 1

Hispanic Americans was even worse: three years.

The drop spelled out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is due mainly to the COVID-19 pandemic, which health officials said is responsible for close to 74% of the overall life expectancy decline. More than 3.3 million Americans died last year, far more than any other year in U.S. history, with COVID-19 accounting for about 11% of those deaths.

Black life expectancy has not fallen so much in one year since the mid-1930s, during the Great Depression. Health officials have not tracked Hispanic life expectancy for nearly as long, but the 2020 decline was the largest recorded one-year drop.

The abrupt fall is "basically catastrophic," said Mark Hayward, a University of Texas sociology professor who studies changes in U.S. mortality.

Killers other than COVID-19 played a role. Drug overdoses pushed life expectancy down, particularly for whites. And rising homicides were a small but significant reason for the decline for Black Americans, said Elizabeth Arias, the report's lead author.

Other problems affected Black and Hispanic people, including lack of access to quality health care, more crowded living conditions, and a

greater share of the population in lower-paying jobs that required them to keep working when the pandemic was at its worst, experts said.

Life expectancy is an estimate of the average number of years a baby born in a given year might expect to live. It's an important statistical snapshot of a country's health that can be influenced both by sustained trends such as obesity as well as more temporary threats like pandemics or war that might not endanger those newborns in their lifetimes.

For decades, U.S. life expectancy was on the upswing. But that trend stalled in 2015, for several years, before hitting 78 years, 10 months in 2019. Last year, the CDC said, it dropped to about 77 years, 4 months. Other findings in the new CDC report:

■ Hispanic Americans have longer life expectancy than white or Black Americans, but had the largest decline in 2020. The three-year drop was the largest since the CDC started tracking Hispanic life expectancy 15 years ago.

■ Black life expectancy dropped nearly three years, to 71 years, 10 months. It has not been that low since 2000.

■ White life expectancy fell by roughly 14 months to about 77 years, 7 months. That was the lowest the lowest life expectancy for that population since 2002.

■ COVID-19's role varied by race and ethnicity. The coronavirus was

responsible for 90% of the decline in life expectancy among Hispanics, 68% among white people and 59% among Black Americans.

■ Life expectancy fell nearly two years for men, but about one year for women, widening a longstanding gap. The CDC estimated life expectancy of 74 years, 6 months for boys vs. 80 years, 2 months for girls.

More than 80% of last year's COVID deaths were people 65 and older, CDC data shows. That actually diminished the pandemic's toll on life expectancy at birth, which is swayed more by deaths of younger adults and children than those among seniors.

That's why last year's decline was just half as much as the three-year drop between 1942 and 1943, when young soldiers were dying in World War II. And it was just a fraction of the drop between 1917 and 1918, when World War I and a Spanish flu pandemic devastated younger generations.

Life expectancy bounced back after those drops, and experts believe it will this time, too. But some said it could take years.

Too many people have already died from COVID-19 this year, while variants of the coronavirus are spreading among unvaccinated Americans — many of them younger adults, some experts said.

"We can't. In 2021, we can't get back to pre-pandemic" life expectancy, said Noreen Goldman, a Princeton University researcher.

AUTHOR

From Page 3

nia Santa Barbara with a bachelor's degree in political science, and received a master's degree in international relations from the Centre Européen d'Études Supérieures in Nancy, France.

McPhetres spent decades of his life in Micronesia, previously serving as the director of the U.S. Peace Corps

TRAVEL

From Page 1

po, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director, the first two flights, which came at 2pm last Saturday via Jeju Air and Asiana Airlines, surpassed MVA's expectations.

"We anticipated load factors to be lower. However, this total number exceeded that," she said.

Iakopo explained that MVA anticipated to fill just 20% of the flight load for each airline but the number of visitors that came in last Saturday exceeded that.

Asiana and Jeju Air each have a total capacity of 171 so MVA expected to garner roughly 34 Travel Bubble participants for each flight for a target total of 68 passengers for the first batch of visitors under the program. However, the first batch surpassed this expectation by roughly 35%, with 92 passengers.

"It was more than what we had anticipated because, before the travel bubble agreement and the flight that came in, we were actually anticipating 20% load factor for each flight. But we exceeded the 20% on both,"

BLANCO

From Page 1

Panglinan said that Blanco, 45, just had lunch with his staff at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao Friday and, as they were leaving and were all in their vehicles, he rolled down his window and asked for assistance from a staff member, and he was guided out of the vehicle. Witnesses then called 911 and asked for help and Aqua Resort staff assisted with cardio-pulmonary resuscitation until medics arrived and took over. Panglinan said an ambulance then transported Blanco to CHC where Strickland pronounced him dead at 1:33pm Friday.

Meanwhile, there will be another special election for Precinct 3—the same precinct that also had a special election in March 2019, following the death of representative Francisco D. Dela Cruz in January 2019. Marco Taisakan Peter of the Republican Party handily won that first special

she added.

Iakopo said last Saturday's flight was just the first. The CNMI is set to welcome Travel Bubble visitors in the next eight weeks, with the next flight expected to arrive at the end of the month. All flights are from South Korea.

"I feel excited that this is the first step in resuming tourism here in the CNMI and, although there is a lot of work to do, we will continue to do whatever we can together with the Office of the Governor, CHCC, the COVID Task Force, and all our partners here," she said.

The two hotels that were chosen to house these tourists are Saipan World Resort and Kensington Hotel Saipan. After their mandatory five-day quarantine at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, these tourists will be moved and they have the option to choose whether they would like to stay at World Resort or Kensington.

Over a week ago, the CNMI saw its official first batch of visitors—a group of YouTube influencers and members of South Korea's media. The group was sort of a test-run for the Travel Bubble that the CNMI officially launched last Saturday.

election, with a landslide victory in a four-way race.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla Igitol said yesterday that CEC is more than ready to conduct a special election.

Igitol said the Legislature would need to notify Gov. Ralph DLG Torres that there is now a vacancy in the House Precinct 3. She said Torres will then sign a proclamation calling for a special election.

Igitol said the CEC commissioners will meet as they need to certify the petitions of candidacy once they are submitted, approve the ballot layout, and approve the polling places.

Igitol said that based on the election last November, there were 3,544 registered voters for Precinct 3.

Blanco landed third after he received 1,457 votes. House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) was the top vote getter after he got 1,622 votes, and Rep. Blas Jonathan Tenorio Attao (R-Saipan) was second with 1,546 votes.

\$15 per hour minimum wage for workers on federal contracts

The U.S. Department of Labor announced last week a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to establish standards and procedures to implement and enforce Executive Order 14026, “Increasing the Minimum Wage for Federal Contractors,” that President Joe Biden signed on April 27, 2021.

This Executive Order will:

- Increase the minimum wage for workers performing work on or in connection with covered federal contracts to

- \$15 per hour beginning Jan. 30, 2022.
- Continue to index the federal contract minimum wage in future years to an inflation measure.
- Eliminate the tipped minimum wage for federal contract workers by 2024.
- Ensure a \$15 minimum wage for workers with disabilities performing work on or in connection with covered contracts.

- Restore minimum wage protections to outfitters and guides operating on federal lands.

“Executive Order 14026 improves the economic security of families and makes progress toward reversing decades of income inequality,” said Wage and Hour Division acting administrator Jessica Looman. “Our proposed regulations to implement President Biden’s executive order will

ensure taxpayer dollars uphold the dignity of work, and provide a living wage to workers on federal contracts, including cleaning, maintenance, nursing and food service workers whose efforts are critical to the nation’s pandemic recovery.”

Executive Order 14026 builds on Executive Order 13658, “Establishing a Minimum Wage for Federal Contractors,” signed by President Barack Obama in 2014. The earlier order increased the hourly minimum wage to

\$10.10 for workers performing on or in connection with covered federal contracts, beginning Jan. 1, 2015, and the hourly minimum wage increased annually thereafter based on inflation. The current federal contract minimum wage under Executive Order 13658 is \$10.95 per hour.

The department invites comments from the public on the proposed rule at www.regulations.gov. The comment period closes Aug. 23, 2021.

Anyone who submits a

comment (including duplicate comments) should understand and expect that the comment, including any personal information provided, will become a matter of public record. The division will post comments without change at www.regulations.gov and include any personal information provided. The division posts comments gathered and submitted by a third-party organization as a group, using a single document ID number at the site. **(PR)**

Fee waivers for July 28 NMC info session participants

Individuals who participate in Northern Marianas College’s upcoming info session on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 will qualify to have their NMC fall 2021 admission application fee and placement test fees waived. The waiver represents a savings of up to \$75.

The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm

at NMC’s Olympio Borja Library located in Building O. As part of NMC’s Covid-19 safety protocols, participants are asked to wear masks or face coverings when on campus.

The sessions will cover topics that include financial aid options and the new vaccination requirements for students

taking in-person classes for the fall 2021 semester.

NMC’s fall 2021 semester will begin on August 16, 2021. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (emphasis in accounting); associate of arts degree in business, associate of applied science degrees in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, and social work), associate of science in nursing, natural resources management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and hospitality management.

High surf advisory still in effect

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6am today, Tuesday. Hazardous surf of 7 to 10 feet are present in west-facing reefs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota until 6am today.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, hazardous surf will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. Strong rip currents can drag you out to sea.

The public, beachgoers, and mariners are advised to continue to exercise precautionary measures when entering the water. Inexperienced swim-

mers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions. Avoid venturing near reef lines facing west.

Meanwhile, high winds and hazardous seas have decreased across the far Northern Mariana Islands, specifically on Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan.

However, a monsoon trough continues to stretch eastward before curving north-eastward to Tropical Storm Nepartak, which is centered far to the north. Winds have subsided but remain hazardous to small craft. Seas have also decreased but satellite altimetry indicates seas of 10 to 12 feet remain. Models show a resurgence of activity along the monsoon trough the second half of the week and next weekend. **(PR)**

CUC to launch kiosks for customers to pay bills

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will soon be installing kiosks in safe, public places on Saipan that will provide its customers the ability to pay utility bills in locations other than CUC’s main office in Dandan. These kiosks will be available even on weekends and holidays.

According to executive director Gary Camacho, CUC hopes to get the kiosks up and running sometime next month.

It was learned during CUC’s board meeting on Monday that CUC recently purchased six of these kiosks and that two of these machines will likely be given to Tinian and Rota.

In a separate interview with Camacho after the meeting, he acknowledged CUC’s ongoing issues with its customer service. “There’s obviously some issues. We understand the concerns, and are going to be pro-

active moving forward. We have required the chief of administration to work closely with the division managers and resident directors on the other islands to try to find and correct these issues,” said Camacho. He did not specify those issues.

“We’d like to put out the kiosk system so people can pay at night, or on weekends and holidays in other locations outside of CUC. We’re making sure that these areas are safe, clean, and available to our consumers,” Camacho added. **(Joshua Santos)**



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB21-CHCC/CGC-TLC-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 3rd, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

“PROCUREMENT OF 15-PASSENGER VAN”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL. IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Colleen S. Deleon Guerrero Tyanna DLG Sablan
P.O. Box 501406, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 783-0598
Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE MATTER OF)
THE APPOINTMENT)
OF AS GUARDIAN) FCD-GU
OF THE ESTATE) CIVIL ACTION
OF: Lourdes Maria) NO. 21-0254
DLG Sablan)
Minor Children)
By:) **NOTICE OF
Colleen S. Deleon Guerrero) HEARING**
Tyanna DLG. Sablan)
Petitioner)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the Estate of the above-named minor children by Colleen S. Deleon Guerrero and Tyanna DLG. Sablan, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said Petition will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 18th day of October, 2021 at 9:00am in Courtroom 217A or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

EDWIN M. MENDOZA) FCD-DI
Petitioner) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 21-0261

Vs.)
CARLOTA P. MARZAN) SUMMONS FOR
Respondent) PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 10001 PMB 433, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 23rd day of June, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court

**TINIAN CASINO GAMING
CONTROL COMMISSION**
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, July 29, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
1. July 7, 2021 – Regular Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹

III. REPORTS

a. Chair’s Report
b. Executive Director’s Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Amerine Gaming Enterprises Consulting Agreement & Training Proposal
b. Casino Service Industry Matsui Asia, Limited

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Licensing Matters
Casino Service Industry
1. United States Playing Cards
2. Clear Management Group



VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

VII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

¹Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
²Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
JVA No. 21 – 056

Opening Date: July 20, 2021 • Closing Date: August 02, 2021

POSITION TITLE: DEPARTMENT: LOCATION: ANNUAL SALARY: CONTRACT: POSITION(S):	Fiscal Assistant COA/Customer Service/Call Center Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA \$16,742.00 - \$22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt Not Contracted One (1)
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The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Updates and verifies customer account or work order information; enters and balances payment data; prepares timekeeping records; may work in the field obtaining and entering customer utility meter information, and replacing or disconnecting utility meters and services.
- Receives customer payments; balances and records cash and other payment receipts; verifies receipts against payment system data; and prepares deposits.
- Monitors and updates customer account information; researches account discrepancies or unusual meter readings; calculates payment information for past-due accounts, new installations and security deposits; reports research findings; and/or follows up on service or work order status.
- Greets customers or receives calls; responds to customer inquiries such as account balance information, payment due dates, minimum payment amounts due or general information inquiries; refers customers to appropriate resources.
- Copies and scans documents; maintains and organizes files records, reports and accounting transaction documentation.
- Updates and maintains spreadsheet reports; prepares fiscal transaction reports or other work activity reports.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS.
Knowledge of: Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.
Skills in: Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

U.S. AIR FORCE/TSGT. BENJAMIN SUTTON
U.S. Air Force airmen return a fuel hose to a C-130J Super Hercules July 21, 2021, at the Tinian International Airport during Pacific Iron 2021.

Fueling agile combat employment operations from afar

By TSGT BENJAMIN SUTTON
36TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Airmen from across two U.S. Air Force major commands are working together over the next few weeks in order to practice dynamic force employment operations.

Specifically, petroleum, oil and lubricant experts will spend the next few weeks preparing to refuel aircraft from across the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's area of responsibility.

"Our team is here practicing new operations and concepts while ensuring the smallest footprint possible to actively accomplish our mission," said Tech. Sgt. Patrick Barlow, 366th Logistics Readiness Squadron deployed from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, acting fuels section chief. "Our No. 1 priority is to safely provide fuel support to our mission partners during Operation Pacific Iron."

Barlow arrived on Tinian early and began operating in an MCA role immediately.

"Along with being responsible for my POL team here, part of being a cross-functional team means I am also the acting on-ground liaison ensuring all units are communicating and mission-ready. This is just one example that demonstrates the MCA skill set which allows us to be more agile and flexible when per-

forming operations"

Barlow is coordinating operations with five Air units on Tinian as well as local government officials in order to make the mission here successful for the whole force.

The team worked for days in scorching heat and torrential downpour to ensure the equipment is operational for when aircraft arrive.

"This team is actually brought together from different bases but from the same career field," said Staff Sgt. Darren Albrecht, 366th LRS fuel operations supervisor. "We are all learning from each other and operating as multi-capable airmen. This is one of the more challenging operations we have done, so our team coming together and working so cohesively, so quickly, has made this a really rewarding experience."

The ability for small groups of airmen to refuel aircraft using bulk fuel bladders from any location assists the use of agile combat operations generating resilient airpower in contested environments.

According to Barlow, having the capability to arrive at a location and be operational within 24-hours is key to achieving their main goal.

"We are using the fuel bladder to store the fuel we receive and then are able to deliver it to any aircraft who comes into our area of operations and requires it," he said.

Albrecht explained that getting equipment set up in a short amount of time is essential to air-superiority so the jets can get back into the air and take the fight to the enemy anytime, anywhere.

"This is such a unique opportunity to practice these skills," he said. "Tinian is a beautiful island and the local residents are so friendly and helpful. We really appreciate their hospitality and are taking advantage of this chance to perform such a dynamic and

challenging mission."

Being able to get fuel across the USINDOPACOM theater of operations is important due to its vast size. The command's area of responsibility is more than 100 million square miles, or roughly 52% of the Earth's surface, stretching from the west coast of the United States, to the west coast of India, and from the Arctic to the Antarctic, making this an important capability.

"I'm excited to take these experiences, concepts, and les-

sons back to Mountain Home Air Force Base and pass them on to the Airmen there," Al-

brecht said. "This helps us to ensure long-term warfighting readiness across the globe."



U.S. Air Force airmen prepare to off-load fuel from a C-130J Super Hercules July 21, 2021, at the Tinian International Airport during Pacific Iron 2021.

U.S. AIR FORCE/TSGT. BENJAMIN SUTTON



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Patrick Barlow, 366th Logistics Readiness Squadron deployed from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, acting fuels section chief, and Staff Sgt. Tyler Winters, 354th LRS deployed from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, fuels laboratory technician, attach the fuel hose to the bladder July 21, 2021, at the Tinian International Airport during Pacific Iron 2021.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tyler Winters, 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron deployed from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, fuels laboratory technician, prepares his equipment before an aircraft arrives July 21, 2021, at the Tinian International Airport during Pacific Iron 2021. Approximately 800 Airmen and 35 aircraft are participating in Pacific Air Forces' dynamic force employment operation July 11 to Aug. 8, 2021, in Guam and on Tinian.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Darren Albrecht, 366th Logistics Readiness Squadron deployed from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, fuel operations supervisor, and Tech. Sgt. Patrick Barlow, 366th LRS also deployed from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, acting fuels section chief, prepare fuel hoses July 21, 2021, at the Tinian International Airport during Pacific Iron 2021.



U.S. Air Force airmen connect fuel hoses in preparation for an off-load of fuel from a C-130J Super Hercules July 21, 2021, at the Tinian International Airport during Pacific Iron 2021.



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Patrick Barlow, 366th Logistics Readiness Squadron deployed from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, acting fuels section chief, and Senior Airman William Pride, 354th LRS deployed from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, storage attendant, unload a large hose from a C-130J Super Hercules July 21, 2021, at the Tinian International Airport during Pacific Iron 2021.

Hood says he's into building the infrastructure for electric cars

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For Coldwell Energy chief executive officer David Hood, it's not just about selling electric cars. Rather, it's about removing the mystery of the cost versus the savings that can be derived from electric cars. It's about building the infrastructure for charging stations and service to make electric vehicles convenient and affordable for everyone here in the CNMI.

In an interview Friday at his office at MH1 Building in Puerto Rico, Hood said he is planning to bring to the islands this August a 2021 all-electric Nissan Leaf and a Tesla for testing.

"I'm here to kind of give the island a quick nudge to get these renewables going," he said. "That's my goal. I want to just promote the use

of these cars here and how we make it smooth for everyone to have one."

Hood said his overarching goal right now is building the infrastructure to make this transition to electric cars smooth for everyone. What he wants to see, he said, is for electric cars and any other renewable energy cars to "become affordable for everybody."

Hood believes that people in the CNMI need "a little nudge" to get that going because it just hasn't happened yet here. "And so I'm going to sponsor this myself. Bring them here. Test these cars. Make sure how they operate here, because they'll operate a little differently here with the conditions that we have," he said.

Hood said they're going to work on the mileage, the charge times, how they charge



The son of Coldwell Energy chief executive officer Dave Hood and his wife holds a photo of one of two electric cars they are bringing to Saipan this August.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

them, and if they will use solar when they charge those. He said the idea is to explore how to make it possible to get these cars under \$50,000 "so that they become affordable for most people."

Hood said that's his goal—to get the infrastructure in place so that people could have electric cars. "Right now, there's really nothing if you think about it. There are no charge stations. You could charge it at home, but there needs to be more things out on the road," he said.

Hood said the infrastructure

could be in the parking lot in one of the hotels where there's a charge station there. "You get some VIP parking because you're running the electric car. So you pull in there and you can charge your car. Let's be honest, people are going to forget to charge their car and they're going to drive it," he pointed out.

Hood underscored the need to get the infrastructure in place so people don't feel they'd be stranded if they buy an electric vehicle.

Hood said there going to be a lot of work to get the infrastructure in place and that's

where their company will play a key role.

"We do that in the U.S. already. The cars are available. So it's not like I need to build the car. They're available. We can have them here," he said.

Hood, who has been in the renewable energy business for 10 years now, said he has been on the island for a while now and he just want to see the CNMI move forward.

"I want to cooperate with everybody. The more people that want to get involved, great. Our door will be open for all the information that we

gather. We will definitely consult with others on the data that we gather when we are going to use the cars here," he said.

Hood said the charge times will be different here because of the weather condition. "If they're just a trickle charge, that's easy. Just plug into a 110. Problem with that is it's very, very slow, so there's 220 chargers and now we are creating a solar charge," he said.

Hood said there are two possible sources of power—Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s grid and solar—and the charge stations could be connected to the power grid or not.

Hood said electric cars go up to 300 miles with one charge. Using a gasoline-powered car, he drove from Capital Hill to Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio and back and that's 26 miles.

"You can do that seven times, eight times with [an electric] car before you charge it," Hood said.

"I'm not trying to corner the market here. Don't get me wrong that I'm going to get greedy here and do it all this myself. I want everybody to get involved. I want this to be a good thing for the island," he said, adding that they are going to work with different companies.

Family, friends of victims/survivors can now nominate for Bridge of Light Award

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence has now included the family members and friends of victims or survivors among those eligible to submit nominations for the prestigious Bridge of Light Award.

The Bridge of Light Award is NMCADSV's annual effort to recognize those who have helped the movement to end violence in the CNMI. This award is meant to honor one extraordinary individual in the CNMI who has worked diligently to provide safety for the community, to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "Bridge of Light" for victims and survivors.

Those eligible to be nominated include service providers, first responders, representatives, or volunteers at one or more eligible agencies, organizations or offices in the CNMI. The nominee must have been employed/volunteered for a minimum of one year and/or have demonstrated one or more extraordinary accomplishments to help sustain the movement. The nominee must also show dedication and effort in the areas of leadership, service, advocacy for victims, prevention, community education or mobilization, and resource development.

Nominations may be submitted by a victim or survivor; a family member or friend of a victim or survivor; a member, representative, and/or volunteer of NMCADSV; or an employee, representative, and/or volunteer at eligible CNMI agencies, organizations, or offices. To verify if an agency, organization, or office may nominate, contact

NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org.

Nominations may be submitted online through <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BO-LA2021WebLink>. The deadline to submit a completed nomination form is 11:59pm on Friday, Sept. 10, 2021.

It is strongly encouraged that those nominating be as detailed and thorough as possible on the form to show why their nominee is deserving of the award. Those evaluating nominations will consider nominees based only on the information provided on the form.

The recipient of the 2021 Bridge of Light Award will be announced during the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation signing ceremony slated for October. The award recipient will also be presented with the opportunity to attend a retreat or training courtesy of NMCADSV among other self-care prizes.

Past recipients include Department of Public Safety officer Flora Aguon, Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri B. Ogunoro, Division of Youth Services social worker Mildred W. Sikebert, Karidat Social Services counselor Elaine C. Dela Cruz, Ayuda Network Inc. executive director Diana Camacho, the Attorney General Office's victim advocate John Aguon, DYS director Vivian T. Sablan, and DPS officer Rose Taman Rios.

For more information on the nomination process or sponsorship, contact the NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. (PR)

\$6K available in Federal Financial Aid for NMC students

New college students who are looking to access federal financial aid for the Northern Marianas College's fall and spring semesters are encouraged to file a 2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA. Students should submit a FAFSA before the spring semester starts on Aug. 16, 2021.

Qualified students can receive up to \$6,495 in federal financial aid for the academic year. The Federal Financial Aid program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

Through the program's various types of grants, loans, and scholarships, the Federal Financial Aid program is the largest financial aid provider in the U.S.

The FAFSA is available online at fafsa.ed.gov and can also be completed by using the myStudentAid smartphone app available for iOS and Android. NMC's school code is 015746.

To verify eligibility for Pell Grants, applicants can contact the NMC Financial Aid Office through email at fao@marianas.edu or call 237-6791. Ap-

plicants can also stop by the Financial Aid Office from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (emphasis in accounting); associate of arts degree in business, associate of applied science degrees in business administration (emphasis in

accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, social work, and pre-engineering), associate of science in nursing, natural resources management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For more information about the fall 2021 semester, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at oar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)

NASA launches contest for sixth to 12th-grade students

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is inviting teams of sixth to 12th-grade students to design, build, and launch experiments on suborbital rockets and balloon flights during the upcoming 2021-2022 school year.

Participants in the NASA TechRise Student Challenge will submit ideas for climate or remote-sensing experiments to fly on a high-altitude balloon, or space exploration experiments to fly aboard a suborbital rocket.

The winning teams will each receive \$1,500 to build their payloads and be awarded an assigned spot on a NASA-sponsored commercial suborbital flight. Balloon flights will offer more than four hours

of flight time, while suborbital rockets will provide around three minutes of test time in microgravity conditions.

The NASA TechRise Challenge will start accepting entries on Aug. 18, 2021.

To prepare educators for the contest, Future Engineers will host two free virtual NASA TechRise summer workshops that will dive into the basics of electronics, coding, and designing for flight, plus provide an opportunity to network with other educators. The first workshop will take place July 28 and will be repeated on Aug. 11 from 12-4 p.m. EDT.

These interactive workshops will prepare educators with everything they will need to guide a student team, in-

cluding NASA TechRise challenge details and key dates. In addition, participants will:

- Learn about suborbital rockets and high-altitude balloons PLUS the vehicle data that will stream to NASA TechRise experiments during flight

- Explore microgravity (zero-g) experiments and climate & remote sensing experiment ideas

- Get hands-on with the basics of programming a microcontroller (the "guts" of running an experiment!)

The contest aims to inspire a deeper understanding of Earth's atmosphere, space exploration, coding, and electronics, as well as a broader understanding of the value of

test data. The challenge will also provide students with the opportunity to engage with NASA and technology communities, and expose them to potential careers in science, technology, and space exploration fields.

The Flight Opportunities program, based at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, and part of the Space Technology Mission Directorate, is leading the NASA TechRise Challenge, which will be administered by Future Engineers. NASA is working with three flight providers to support the competition: Blue Origin, UP Aerospace, Inc., and Raven Aerostar. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Get vaccinated. It's not complicated. The surge of the delta variant makes it clear

While still well below their winter peaks, the latest spikes in new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are raising concerns among health officials and among many Americans—just not among enough, given how many people still remain unvaccinated.

New coronavirus cases have more than doubled in the past month in San Diego County and in California, fueled by the highly infectious delta variant that now makes up 83% of new U.S. cases. The surge is even stronger in Los Angeles County, leading authorities to reimpose indoor mask mandates.

Even now, 16 months into this public health crisis, there remains much we don't know about the novel coronavirus and COVID-19, the disease it causes. But it's very clear that the vaccines work very well and that more Americans should have shots by now and more should get them as soon as possible.

As Michelle Goldberg noted in her column in *The New York Times* this week, the irony is that the social distancing required to control COVID-19 “nurtured pathologies that are now prolonging it,” and isolated people “turned to movements that turned them against vaccines.”

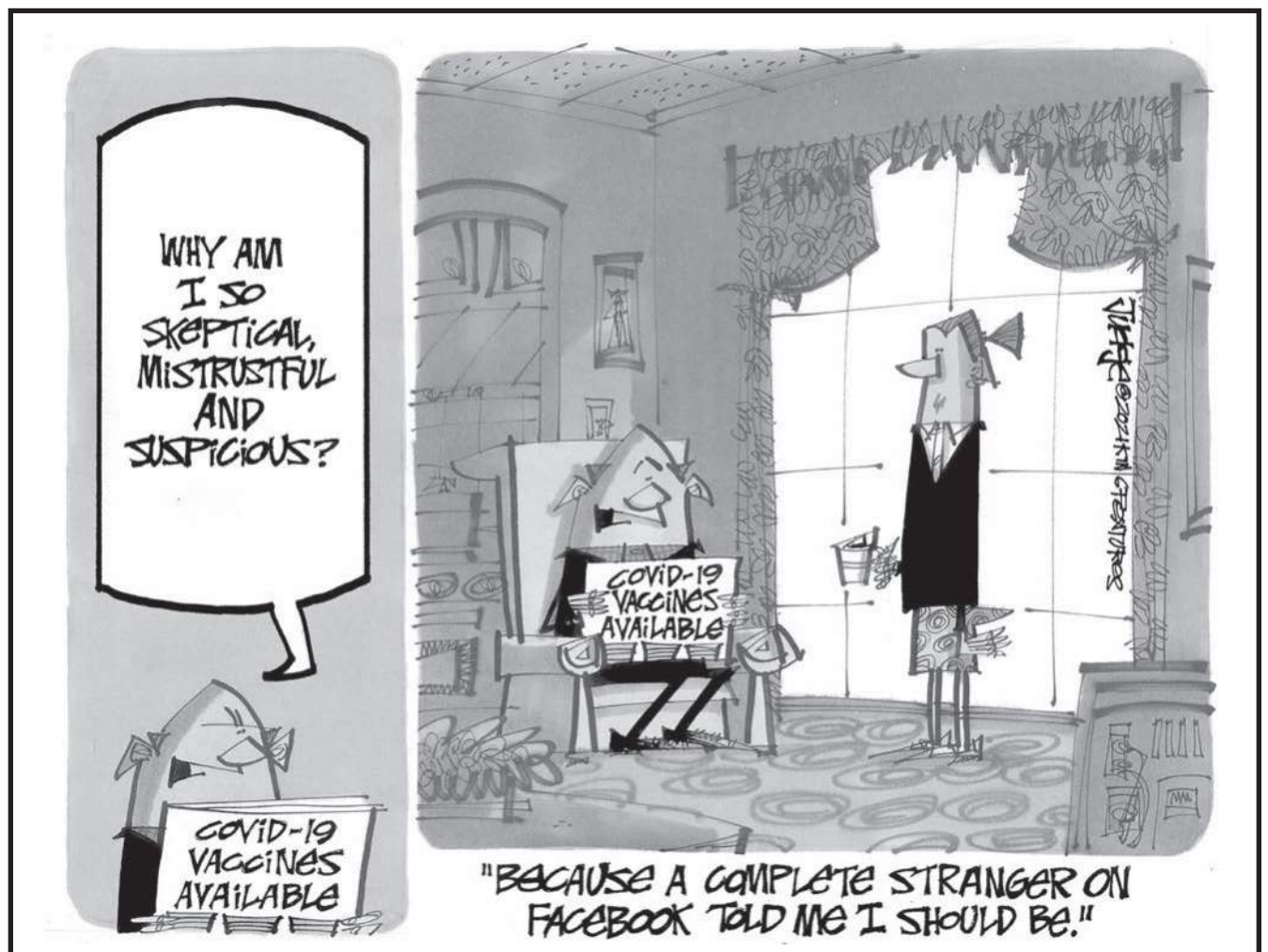
Thankfully, some pundits and Republican politicians whose forceful advocacy might have helped prevent a new surge are joining the fight this week.

Fox host Sean Hannity, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and House GOP Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana offered their loudest, most unambiguous endorsements of getting vaccinated yet. With the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reporting that more than 97% of COVID-19 hospitalizations nationwide are occurring among the unvaccinated, the value of vaccinations has never been clearer. The stunning drop in U.S. life expectancy in 2020, announced on Wednesday, only adds to the case. “If there is anybody out there willing to listen: Get vaccinated,” McConnell said. “This is not complicated.”

Goaded on by Fox News' Tucker Carlson and social media disinformation merchants, many supporters of Donald Trump have depicted their refusal to get vaccines as an affirmation of both their individual freedom and their contempt for the mainstream media and public health officials. They have done so even though Trump himself was vaccinated long ago, and new reporting has suggested that aggressive, innovative medical treatment saved him from death last October when he contracted COVID-19 after a manic half-year of defying mask edicts at the White House and during rallies.

Local statistics—with 98.7% of new infections and 99.7% of hospitalizations among those who are not fully vaccinated—offer even greater reassurances. But there remains trepidation and debate about how to reopen schools amid California's indoor mask mandate for K-12 campuses. Local superintendents have criticized it and the CDC shares the view

See DELTA VARIANT on Next Page



Vaccine mandates and personal liberty can coexist

Although the sentiment may seem paradoxical, libertarians should cheer this week's decision by a federal judge upholding Indiana University's vaccine mandate for students. The court reached the right result and the judge's reasoning provides a forceful reminder that the government's regulatory power, even in an emergency, is far from unlimited.

Like other colleges and universities, Indiana plans to reopen fully this fall, and is requiring that all students provide evidence of vaccination unless they've received religious or medical exemptions. Only in this way—so university authorities contend—can the campuses return to their proper functioning.

Eight students filed suit, claiming that the mandate violated their constitutional rights. On Sunday, federal district judge Damon R. Leitchy denied the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction, ruling that should the case go to trial, the students were unlikely to prevail.

Hmmm. Coercion wins, individual liberty loses. Why on earth should libertarians cheer?

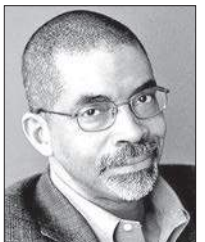
Let's go back a step.

Libertarians celebrate individual freedom. They've long been associated with opposition to vaccine mandates, which restrict personal liberty and interfere with bodily integrity. But that doesn't make them anti-vaxxers. One can consider a thing desirable without believing people should be forced to do it. (Think prayer.) A 2019 Australian study found no correlation between scoring high on an index of libertarian thought and refusing to vaccinate one's own children. On the contrary: Left to choose for themselves, libertarians were as likely as anyone else to want their own children vaccinated.

Moreover, libertarian thought on the issue is evolving. Well before the Covid-19 pandemic, such influential libertarian philosophers as Jessica Flanigan and Jason Brennan had authored thoughtful arguments in favor of many vaccine mandates, particularly when disaster is looming. Even Richard Epstein, the dean of academic libertarians—also writing before the current pandemic—has supported mandatory vaccination as a condition of school attendance, in part on the ground that in the face of spreading contagion there's often no realistic alternative.

These theorists aren't abandoning fundamental principles of respect for individual liberty. They're arguing that in certain cases it's reasonable to prevent acts that do direct, significant and foreseeable harm to others. In a particularly evocative analogy, Flanigan likens a person refusing a vaccine to a man who celebrates the Fourth of July by firing a gun into the air, inadvertently striking a neighbor. And although libertarians gravitate toward

By **STEPHEN L. CARTER**
Bloomberg Opinion



Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of law at Yale University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. His novels include *The Emperor of Ocean Park*, and his latest nonfiction book is *Invisible: The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster*.

lawsuits as a solution to harm, Epstein points out that when one becomes infected with a virus, it's often impossible to figure out exactly who's to blame.

Which brings us back to Judge Leitchy's opinion in the Indiana case, *Klassen v. Trustees of Indiana University*, which itself carries so strong a libertarian flavor that one might consider it a part of the same conversation.

The university argued that the case was controlled by the 1905 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, upholding mandatory vaccination against smallpox. Leitchy agreed. Nevertheless, he warned that health regulations demand more than mere expert say-so. “Jacobson doesn't justify blind deference to the government when it acts in the name of public health or in a pandemic,” Leitchy wrote.

Thus a mandate isn't justified merely because health authorities say so. And true to his word, rather than blindly defer, the judge engaged in his own detailed march through the evidence before concluding that unless vaccinations were required, the university would not be able to return to normal functioning.

Here it's worth noting the narrowness of the mandate. It applied only to the Indiana University, not to the state as a whole. Moreover, the rules were adopted locally—quite close to the people who would be most affected by them—another favorite libertarian idea. Perhaps most important, other institutions in the state, schools or businesses or anything else, were left free to come up with their own rules, depending on their own circumstances.

What should also warm libertarian hearts is Leitchy's ringing rejection of the proposition that rights should be read more narrowly because of the pandemic. I quote his response in full because his words deserve wide dissemination in these fractious times:

[T]he Constitution isn't put on the shelf. Indeed, in times of

See VACCINE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Getting beyond undue pride and shame

Aren't pride and shame just flip sides of the same coin? Which side are Republicans looking at as they take up the battle against critical race theory?

Even though many Americans would be hard pressed to describe CRT, it has become a prime focus of Republican objection. Here in Texas, for example, Gov. Greg Abbott recently convened a special legislative session to urge the passage of new laws that will completely ban the teaching of CRT in public schools in Texas.

CRT is neither new nor terribly complicated. It's merely a way of describing our nation's racial history. It says that we can better understand race in America by thinking in terms of systems and institutions, rather than in terms of discrimination at a person-to-person level.

This shouldn't be controversial. Nearly everyone understands that the Constitution counted Black Americans as three-fifths of a white person, a calculation that stayed in place for nearly a hundred years. Indian removal wasn't the result of individual frontiersmen pushing Indians off their land; it was national policy. During the long reign of Jim Crow, individual Americans didn't segregate schools; the Supreme Court did. For decades we even restricted some of the nation's best baseball players to a separate Negro League.

In short, racism in America was institutional from our founding, and while we've come a long way, we haven't completed the task of eradicating institutional racism from our society.

So CRT is not an outlandish partisan plan to undermine Americanism. It's just an informed way of thinking about race

in America.

Then why are Republicans so determined to protect us from this very honest understanding of American history? Is it pride or shame?

Every nation is inclined to glorify its past. We want to take pride in our Founders as heroes who risked their lives for the high principles embodied in our Constitution and other founding documents. There's something to that.

At the same time, these men reflected the times into which they were born, and many never got far beyond them. In fact, many of the men that we've traditionally honored with statues and the names of cities and streets were white supremacists, as well as slave owners, Indian killers, liars, adulterers, alcoholics and terrible family men.

These men may have been heroes, but they weren't saints. An exaggerated and undue sense of pride in their accomplishments does nothing to enhance our understanding of ourselves and our country.

In fact, too much pride is misleading. For example, some Americans can't get over their pride in the Old South. Thus we have the Sons of the Confederacy, as well as more pernicious organizations. In this pride reside the roots of the astonishing sight of the Confederate battle flag being paraded defiantly around our nation's capitol on Jan. 6.

On the other hand, there's such a thing as too much shame: A few years ago the actor Ben Affleck was so embarrassed by his slaveholding ancestors that he tried to have that part of his family history edited out of the PBS documentary "Finding

By JOHN M. CRISP

Tribune News Service

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Your Roots."

Both of these positions are ridiculous. My ancestors were documented Confederate soldiers, slaveholders and white supremacists. But that was 160 years ago. At this far remove, what does pride or shame in their particular attitudes and actions have to do with me?

Every family is populated by saints and sinners, priests and prostitutes, heroes and cowards in ways over which we have no control. So is every nation. But we have no particular right to undue pride or obligation for excessive responsibility for things that long precede our births.

Like the history of every human life, our nation's history is a complicated balance of pride and shame. But a healthy person and a healthy nation find ways to get over both.

CRT says accurately that American racism is systemic. Still, the solution to racism is personal. We reform our institutions when we get past pride and shame and begin to reform the way we treat each other, person to person.

Yes, remember the Alamo

No one is trying to topple the Alamo quite yet, but a new revisionist book on the foundational event of Texas history partakes of the iconoclastic spirit of our time.

The book, titled "Forget the Alamo," is a harsh call for Texans, and Americans, to get over a battle deeply etched in our popular memory. According to the authors, the Texans (then the Texians) were foolish to try to defend the indefensible. Some of the defenders tried to make a run for it. Santa Anna, the Mexican general central to the story, wasn't so bad. And given the importance of slavery to the early history of Texas, the Alamo and the Texas Revolution are due an overall post-George Floyd reevaluation.

If there are legitimate disputes over the historical record, it's really not hard to understand why a badly outnumbered garrison of men who fought ferociously against a government force almost to the last man and provided a rallying cry for a rebellion that quickly swept to success occupies an outsize place in our imagination.

Especially given that two of the most famous Americans of the time, Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, died there.

Such an event is inevitably catnip for myth-making, but even when stripped down to its essence, the Alamo and the aftermath were truly extraordinary.

Santa Anna, president of Mexico 11 separate times, first took power as a federalist, then switched sides and became a centralizer. A new constitution squashed Mexican states that had been run largely autonomously. Santa Anna put down the ensuing re-

volt in the province of Zacatecas in horrifyingly brutal fashion, and then he came for Texas.

About 150 defenders holed up in the Alamo, and the rest is not just legend, but history.

Santa Anna did indeed signal that his force of more than a thousand would give no quarter.

William Barret Travis, commander of the garrison, did indeed write an immortal letter concluding, "Victory or death." He made a plea for reinforcements that never came. "If this call is neglected," he wrote, "I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country."

Santa Anna's troops did indeed launch an early morning attack that was bloodied by the defenders, but quickly overwhelmed the fortification. Santa Anna insisted that roughly half a dozen survivors be executed, and followed up this atrocity with the murder of about 350 other captured rebels in the Goliad Massacre.

Sam Houston, his forces swelled by volunteers, did indeed tell his troops prior to the Battle of San Jacinto: "We will meet the enemy. Some of us may be killed, and must be killed. But, soldiers, remember the Alamo, the Alamo, the Alamo!" In an astonishing turnabout, the battle turned into a bloody rout of the Mexicans that secured the independence of Texas.

Who wouldn't want to make a movie of such events?

Of course, such popularizations aren't going to be academically rigorous. Pushing back, the authors of "Forget the Alamo"

thing you can do indoors." Mask-wearing shouldn't be mandated, Topol said, to avoid rebellions. But common sense dictates wearing one—"just out of intelligence and the science that backs it up."

The decision on whether to reopen the U.S.-Mexico land border is more complex. Citing the delta variant surge, U.S. officials announced Wednesday the federal government will keep restrictions on non-essential travel across the border through at least Aug. 21. Given reports showing Baja California and San

By RICH LOWRY

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Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



assail the character of Jim Bowie and William Travis, and, sure enough, you wouldn't trust them to manage your real-estate holdings. Texas at the time was a hard place, and the Mexicans and Comanche who contended for control of the territory weren't paragons, either.

The authors note the contribution of the Tejanos, native Texans of Mexican descent, and regret how it's missing from many accounts of the revolution, which is fair enough, but doesn't detract from the basic story.

They make much of how Mexico abolished slavery, whereas Texas planters depended on it. Yet Mexico tolerated slavery in Texas and had its own rigidly hierarchical economic system.

By all means, let's be as truthful as possible about the Alamo and the Texas Revolution. But it's pointlessly destructive to tear down what deserves to be honored and to forget what—as Sam Houston insisted so ringingly and aptly—should be remembered.

DELTA VARIANT

From Page 8

that fully vaccinated students shouldn't have mask requirements.

Nationally renowned scientist Eric Topol told the San Diego News Fix podcast that he is wearing a mask again indoors because of the delta variant surge. He called wearing a mask, especially when inside for a protracted period of time, "the best

Diego County have similar, relatively high vaccination rates, the Biden administration should set specific benchmarks for when restrictions can be eased. Complete pandemic safety is not possible. Considerable safety is. With COVID-19 deaths a fraction of what they used to be, pandemic policies must be calibrated to reduce the collateral damage they create, in schools, on the border, everywhere.

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VACCINE

From Page 8

crisis, perhaps constitutional adherence proves the very anchor we all need against irrational and overweening government intrusion that would otherwise scuttle the ship.

In other words, even if this particular restriction on freedom is permissible, there are limits to what mandates may be handed down in response to the challenge of COVID-19. "The Constitution doesn't permit the government to declare a never-ending public emergency and expand its powers arbitrarily," Leichter wrote.

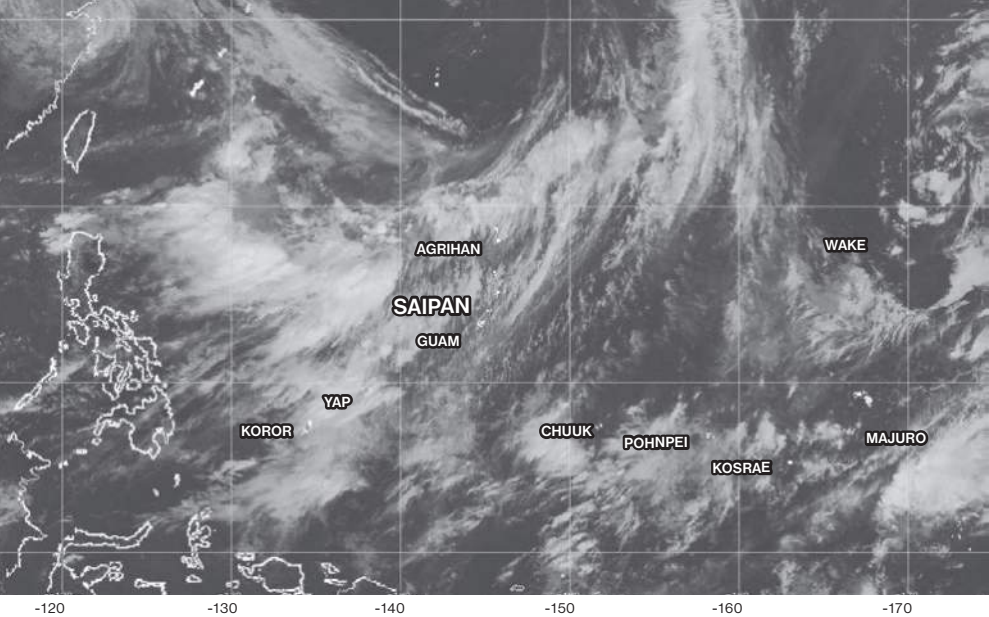
The pandemic isn't over, and could still get worse. I adhere to

my views that we have far too many laws, and that it's better to pay people to do what we want than to punish them for refusing. But I recognize that depending on what course the virus takes, more mandates may be on the way.

If that happens, I trust that the courts will follow Leichter's example in *Klassen*, assessing the rules not with blind deference to authority but with a sensitive concern for individual liberty.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:06 AM, MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Southwest winds and a few showers prevailed over the Marianas this morning. A relative dry period is expected the next few days with an return to wetter conditions by midweek.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Showers	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Showers	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:40 AM	9:29 PM
Wednesday	-	9:33 AM	10:07 PM
Thursday	-	10:22 AM	10:44 PM
Friday	-	11:11 AM	11:19 PM
Saturday	-	11:58 AM	11:55 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 46°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°	
Hong Kong	Showers	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°	
London	Rain	64° / 63°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	90° / 73°	
Manila	Rain	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Rain	52° / 41°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 83°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	88° / 72°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	93° / 75°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 64°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°	
Rome	Sunny	102° / 75°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 70°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	67° / 58°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	93° / 75°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	81° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	89° / 72°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:14 AM	Low Tide	1.24	
9:03 AM	High Tide	2.02	
4:19 PM	Low Tide	0.01	
11:09 PM	High Tide	2.02	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 7 via Guam				
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	4:05am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3	UA184	10:25pm	4:20am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily				
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable				

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Business

A Vietnamese culinary experience at Pho Tam Restaurant



Pho Tam is located adjacent to the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrera@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Vietnamese cuisine—healthy, tasty, and with ingredients that are simple and always familiar—is well loved on Saipan. Which is why Pho Tam Restaurant, which is located across Horiguchi Building in Garapan, is such a welcome addition to the CNMI's culinary scene. The restaurant opened its doors in mid-July to bring nothing but authentic Vietnamese dishes that is sure to tickle your palate and appetite.

According to owner and chef Richer Ta, he doesn't know anyone who doesn't like Vietnamese food, with many praising the cuisine's freshness as well as its healthful-

ness. "One highlight about this cuisine is it's...light and at same time flavorful," he said.

Ta said that Vietnamese food has been getting a lot of traction in the Los Angeles foodie scene for the past six years "and when I came here in February this year, I saw the opportunity to open one."

He said that Pho Tam's menu consists of food that he and his family love to eat. "We are happy with how the community welcomed us since we opened. I knew that the people were waiting for something different and we are happy to bring that to them," he added.

If Ta's name sounds familiar, that's because he is one of eight children of businessman Ta Bun Kuy and Nenita Ta. He graduated high school from

Pho Tam manager Danny Yuso, owner and chef Richer Ta, and Nenita Ta are surrounded by their staff. Pho Tam is open from Tuesday to Sunday, from 11am to 2pm and 6pm to 10pm.

Grace Christian Academy on Navy Hill, took up culinary arts at Le Cordon Bleu in Pasadena, worked under Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto. Besides Pho Tam, he also manages two restaurants in Los Angeles that serve Mexican food.

The name Pho Tam is a combination of two Vietnamese terms: the flavorful Vietnamese broth or soup called "Pho" (pronounced as 'fu') and Tam means "eight" in Vietnamese.

According to restaurant manager Danny Yuso, their menu is complete, ranging from appetizers, to pho dishes, banh mi sandwiches, salads, and house specials. "Our best-seller is the Pho Tam Special that goes with rare steak with

brisket, tendon and meatballs. ...Our pho is cooked for several hours that includes Chef Ta's special spices. That is why even though we only opened, we are happy to see repeat customers who comment on how unique our pho is," he said.

He said many of their customers also like the restaurant's "Build Your Bowl" concept, where they can make their own Vietnamese bowl either with rice or vermicelli, then choose their meat (lemongrass chicken, lemongrass sliced pork, lemongrass pork chop, or garlic shrimp).

They also serve Banh Mi, a popular Vietnamese sandwich with different choices of filling like "The Original" or Viet-



Pho Tam not only serves good food but also provides ambiance and a great eating experience for their customers.

namese ham and pork loaf, barbecue chicken or pork, braised or crispy pork belly.

"We bake our own French baguette so our bread is guaranteed fresh every day," he added.

Pho Tam is not only winning the taste buds of the community but also creates a great ambiance with its eastern culture décor and a well-lit and spacious dining area that makes customers feel wel-

come and relaxed.

"I just want our customers to love the food, the atmosphere, and the service. Being in charge of the kitchen, I want to keep the quality and consistency of our product," Ta said.

Pho Tam is open Tuesday to Sunday for lunch from 11am to 2pm and dinner from 6pm to 10pm. For more information, call (670) 233-7878 or check their Facebook or Instagram accounts.

United expects profitability in Q3 and beyond

CHICAGO—United Airlines now expects positive adjusted pre-tax income in the third and fourth quarters of 2021 as travel demand rebounds, according to the company's newly released second-quarter 2021 financial results.

The company's second quarter performance largely exceeded original expectations as international long haul and business travel accelerated even faster than anticipated, together with continued yield improvement. Looking ahead, the company expects continued gains as more businesses return by end of summer and into 2022, with a full recovery in demand anticipated by 2023.

"Thanks to the professionalism and perseverance of the United employees who have worked so hard to take care of our customers through the pandemic, our airline has reached a meaningful turn-

ing point: we're expecting to be back to making a profit once again," said United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby. "As we emerge from the most disruptive crisis our company has faced, we're now focused squarely on our United Next strategy that will transform our customers' onboard experience and help fulfill United's incredible potential.

Q2 financial results

■ Reported second quarter 2021 capacity down 46% compared to second quarter 2019.

■ Reported second quarter 2021 net loss of \$0.4 billion, adjusted net loss of \$1.3 billion.

■ Reported second quarter 2021 total operating revenue of \$5.5 billion, down 52% compared to second quarter 2019.

■ Raised secured financing collateralized by substantially all of United's network of slots, routes, and gates

—made up of \$4 billion in a private offering of bonds, a \$5 billion term loan, and a \$1.75 billion revolving credit facility. This is a first of its kind financing and the largest non-merger financing transaction in airline history.

■ Reported second quarter 2021 ending available liquidity of approximately \$23 billion.

Outlook

■ Expects third quarter 2021 capacity to be down around 26% compared to third quarter 2019, up 39% quarter over quarter.

■ Based on current trends, the company expects third quarter 2021 TRASM growth to be positive compared to the third quarter 2019, the first quarter of positive TRASM growth since the second quarter of 2020.

■ Third quarter 2021 estimated fuel price of approximately \$2.17 per gallon.



United Airlines now expects positive adjusted pre-tax income in the third and fourth quarters of 2021 as travel demand rebounds.

■ Expects third quarter 2021 adjusted pre-tax income to be positive, the first quarter of positive adjusted pre-tax income since fourth quarter 2019. Additionally, expects fourth quarter 2021 adjusted pre-tax income to be positive.

Key highlights

■ Announced the purchase of 270 new Boeing and Airbus aircraft—the largest combined order in the airline's history and the biggest by an individ-

ual carrier in the last decade.

■ As part of "United Next" announced plans to retrofit 100% of the mainline, narrow-body fleet to transform the customer experience and create a new signature interior with a roughly 75% increase in premium seats per departure, larger overhead bins, seatback entertainment in every seat and the industry's fastest available WiFi.

■ Established a new diversity goal by striving to have

50% of students at the new United Aviate Academy be women and people of color.

■ Entered into a commercial agreement with Denver-based aerospace company Boom Supersonic to add supersonic aircraft to United's global fleet.

■ Provided customers the ability to schedule COVID-19 tests and have results reviewed in advance through United's industry-leading Travel-Ready Center. (PR)

Nation

California's largest fire burns homes as blazes scorch West

AP
Flames from the Dixie Fire consume a home in the Indian Falls community of Plumas County, Calif., Saturday, July 24, 2021.

INDIAN FALLS, Calif. (AP)—California's largest wildfire merged with a smaller blaze and destroyed homes in remote areas with limited access for firefighters, as numerous other fires gained strength and threatened property across the U.S. West.

The massive Dixie Fire, which started July 14, had already leveled over a dozen houses and other structures when it combined with the Fly Fire and tore through the tiny Northern California community of Indian Falls after dark Saturday.

An updated damage estimate was not available Sunday, though fire officials said the

blaze had charred nearly 298 square miles acres (772 square kilometers) of timber and brush in Plumas and Butte counties. It was 21% contained.

Firefighters carrying hand tools were forced to hike through rugged terrain where engines can't go, said Rick Carhart, spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

"It has been burning in extremely steep canyons, some places where it is almost impossible for human beings to set foot on the ground to get in there," he said. "It's going to be a long haul."

Still, crews made progress Saturday by proactively set-

ting fires to rob the main blaze of fuels, Carhart said.

The fire prompted evacuation orders in several small mountain communities and along the west shore of Lake Almanor, a popular resort area. About 10,000 homes remained under threat, officials said.

Firefighters also reported progress against the nation's largest wildfire, the Bootleg Fire in southern Oregon, containing 46% of the blaze that had consumed nearly 640 square miles (1,657 square kilometers).

More than 2,200 firefighters battled the blaze, focusing Sunday on constructing containment lines at the north and eastern edges in dense tim-

ber. Crews could get a break from rain and higher humidity predicted for this week, said Marcus Kauffman, spokesman for the Oregon Department of Forestry.

The lightning-caused fire has burned 67 homes, mainly cabins, and at least 2,000 houses were under evacuation orders.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown told CNN's "State of the Union"

that it's imperative federal and state authorities invest in mitigation such as tree thinning and preventive burns to limit the number of similar massive blazes. But she conceded that "the harsh reality is that we're going to see more of these wildfires."

"They're hotter, they're more fierce, and obviously much more challenging to tackle. And they are a sign

of the changing climate impacts," Brown said Sunday.

In California, Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency for four northern counties because of wildfires that he said were causing "conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property." The proclamation opened the way for more state support.

Fauci says US headed in 'wrong direction' on coronavirus

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—The United States is in an "unnecessary predicament" of soaring COVID-19 cases fueled by unvaccinated Americans and the virulent delta variant, the nation's top infectious diseases expert said Sunday.

"We're going in the wrong direction," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, describing himself as "very frustrated."

He said recommending that the vaccinated wear masks is "under active consideration" by the government's leading public health officials. Also, booster shots

may be suggested for people with suppressed immune systems who have been vaccinated, Fauci said.

Fauci, who also serves as President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, told CNN's "State of the Union" that he has taken part in conversations about altering the mask guidelines. He noted that some local jurisdictions where infection rates are surging, such as Los Angeles County, are already calling on individuals to wear masks in indoor public spaces regardless of vaccination status. Fauci said those local rules are compatible with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation that the vaccinated do not need to wear masks in public.

More than 163 million people, or 49% of the total U.S. population, are fully vaccinated, according to CDC data. Of those eligible for the vaccine, aged 12 and over, the figure rises to 57%.

"This is an issue predominantly among the unvaccinated, which is the reason why we're out there, practically

pleading with the unvaccinated people to go out and get vaccinated," Fauci said.

Fauci said government experts are reviewing early data as they consider whether to recommend that vaccinated individuals to get booster shots. He suggested that some of the most vulnerable, such as organ transplant and cancer patients, are "likely" to be recommended for booster shots.

He also praised Republicans, including Govs. Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas and Ron DeSantis of Florida, and the second-ranking House leader, Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, for encouraging their constituents to get vaccinated. Their states have among the lowest vaccination rates in the country.

"What I would really like to see is more and more of the leaders in those areas that are not vaccinating to get out and speak out and encourage people to get vaccinated," Fauci said.

ACROSS THE NATION

At least 7 killed in 20-car pileup in Utah during sandstorm

KANOSH, Utah (AP)—At least seven people were killed in a 20-vehicle pileup crash during a sandstorm Sunday afternoon, Utah Highway Patrol said. The crashes happened on Interstate 15 near the town of Kanosh, according to a news release. Several people were reportedly taken to hospitals in critical condition. Ground and air ambulances were used to transport crash victims. The pileup occurred during a period of high winds that caused a dust or sandstorm which reduced visibility, the highway patrol said. I-15 remained par-

tially shut down late Sunday. Traffic was redirected around the crash site. Kanosh is located about 160 miles (258 kilometers) south of Salt Lake City.

Authorities identify victims in Wisconsin triple homicide

LA CROSSE, Wis. (AP)—Authorities have identified the victims of a triple homicide in far western Wisconsin. The bodies of 24-year-old Peng Lor, 24-year-old Nemo Yang and 23-year-old Trevor Maloney were discovered shortly before 5 a.m. by two workers of the Milestone Quarry, the La Crosse County Sheriff's Office said. The quarry

is located near West Salem, about 14 miles (23 kilometers) northeast of La Crosse, which is along the Minnesota border. La Crosse County Sheriff Jeff Wolf has called the deaths a "targeted act" but has not said how they died. He believes the three victims were killed Thursday night or early Friday, and investigators want to see if any cameras recorded vehicles in the area at that time. A dozen investigators were actively working on the case Saturday and following up on information about the whereabouts of the victims 24 hours prior to the discovery of the bodies, the La Crosse Tribune reported.



Fauci

Asia

113 killed in western India landslides, monsoon floods



This photograph provided by India's National Disaster Response Force shows NDRF personnel recovering the body of a landslide victim at Ratnagiri in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, Sunday, July 25, 2021.

NEW DELHI (AP)—Days of landslides and flooding triggered by heavy monsoon rains in western India's Maharashtra state killed at least 113 people and injured 50, officials said Sunday, as rescuers scrambled to find at least 100 missing.

A government spokesperson, Sandhya Garware, said over 130,000 people were rescued from nearly 900 affected villages across the state. Many were stranded on rooftops or atop buses on highways. India's navy also said it deployed helicopters to evacuate stranded people and sent rescue teams with boats to the region.

Officials said one of the worst-hit villages was Talai, 270 kilometers (168 miles) south of Mumbai, the capital

of Maharashtra state and also India's financial and entertainment hub.

The village of 59 households was buried by a massive landslide on Thursday, state official Sagar Pathak said. Rescuers recovered two more bodies on Sunday, bringing the number of villagers killed to 42, with around the same number still missing. Pathak said inclement weather, difficult terrain and large debris were hampering rescue efforts.

Authorities deployed hundreds of rescuers to the affected areas to locate missing people and take the stranded to safety, with scores of soldiers assisting.

Disasters caused by landslides and flooding are common in India during the June-

September monsoon season, when heavy rains weaken the foundations of structures that are often poorly built. The monsoon is crucial for rain-fed crops planted during the season, but the rain often causes extensive damage and kills scores of people each year.

Last weekend, more than 30 people were killed in landslides triggered by heavy monsoon rain in and around Mumbai.

Experts say heavy rainfall along India's western coast is in line with how rainfall patterns have changed in the region in past years due to climate change, as the warming Arabian Sea is driving more cyclones and more intense rainfall over short periods of time.

homes had collapsed.

Typhoon In-fa hits China's east coast, canceling flights

BEIJING (AP)—Typhoon In-fa hit China's east coast south of Shanghai on Sunday after people living near the sea were evacuated, airline flights and trains were canceled and the public was ordered to stay indoors. The typhoon made landfall in Zhoushan in Zhejiang province, state TV reported, citing the national weather agency. It forecast rainfall of 10-14 inches (250-350 millimeters). "People should not willingly go outdoors," the bureau said. The typhoon earlier dumped rain on Taiwan and knocked down tree branches, but no deaths or injuries were reported.

Australia avoids UNESCO downgrade of Great Barrier Reef

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia on Friday garnered enough international support to defer an attempt by the United Nations' cultural organization to downgrade the Great Barrier Reef's World Heritage status because of damage caused by climate change. UNESCO had recommended that its World Heritage Committee add the world's largest coral reef ecosystem off the northeast Australian coast to the World Heritage in Danger list, mainly due to rising ocean temperatures. Australian-proposed amendments to the draft decision at a committee meeting in China on Friday would have deferred the "in danger" question until 2023.

World

28 abducted Baptist school students freed in Nigeria

KANO, Nigeria (AP)—Armed kidnappers in Nigeria have released 28 of the more than 120 students who were abducted at the beginning of July from the Bethel Baptist High School in the northern town of Damishi.

Church officials handed those children over to their parents at the school on Sunday. But the Rev. Israel Akanji, president of the Baptist Convention, said more than 80 other children are still being held by the gunmen.

So far 34 children kidnapped from the school on July 5 have either been released or have escaped from the custody of the gunmen. It is unclear when the other children will be released. The gunmen have reportedly demanded 500,000 Naira (about \$1,200) for each student.

Akanji said the church did not pay any ransoms because



Parents are reunited with released students of the Bethel Baptist High School in Damishi, Nigeria, on Sunday, July 25, 2021.

it is opposed to paying criminals, but he added the church was unable to stop the children's families from taking any actions they deem fit to secure their release.

A spokesman for the Nigerian Police, Mohammed Jalige, said security forces and civilian defense forces were on a routine rescue pa-

rol July 12 around the forests near the village of Tsohon Gaya when they found three exhausted kidnapped victims roaming in the bush. Two other students escaped on July 20 when they were ordered to fetch firewood from a nearby forest. Jalige said they were undergoing medical examinations.

10 killed, 44 hurt in bus crash in Croatia

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)—A bus swerved off a highway and crashed in Croatia early Sunday after the driver apparently fell asleep, killing 10 people and injuring at least 44 others—some of them seriously, authorities said.

The crash happened about 6 a.m. near the town of Slavonski Brod on the highway between the Croatian capital of Zagreb and the Serbian border, a key artery over the summer due to tourists and workers coming home from Western Europe. Police said the bus had Kosovo license plates and was traveling from Frankfurt, Germany, to Kosovo's capital of Pristina, which is south of Serbia.

Officials said the bus was carrying 67 passengers, including children, and two drivers, one of whom died in the crash. The 44 injured were transferred to local hospitals. Slavonski Brod hospital chief Josip Sa-

mardzic said eight people had serious injuries.

Authorities said the bus driver was detained after he apparently lost control of the vehicle after briefly falling asleep.

"He said he fell asleep for a moment," local deputy prosecutor Slavko Pranjić said, according to Index news site in Croatia.

Police said the bus slid off the road into the grass before flipping on its side.

One passenger, Ramo Gashi, told state HRT television that "something burst."

"I saw, in a split second, all these people, the entire meadow, the channel below, behind the motorway," he said. "I saw the wounded, the dead, I saw everything."

Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković expressed "sadness and grief" and extended his condolences to the victims' relatives and the people of Kosovo. Croatian President Zoran Milanović

also expressed condolences and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

Kosovo President Vjosa Osmani, who cut short her stay in Tokyo at the Olympic Games because of the crash, extended her sorrow in a message on Facebook and declared Monday a national day of mourning in Kosovo.

"With our heart and in spirit, we are close to the families who lost their loved ones in this tragedy," Osmani said. "It is an indescribable pain and a great loss."

Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti said "this is a tragic day for our country and for our people." He arrived in Croatia later Sunday and visited the injured in the hospital with Croatia's prime minister.

"We are here to be with our citizens," Kurti said, according to Index. "Hundreds of citizens who live outside Kosovo, they come to Kosovo and our economy depends on this."

Fires ravage Sardinia, forcing evacuations

MILAN (AP)—Fires raged Sunday on Italy's Mediterranean island of Sardinia, where nearly 400 people were evacuated overnight. No deaths or injuries have been reported.

Firefighters said several homes were damaged in the island's western interior region. Civil protection authorities said a preliminary survey indicates

10,000 acres have been consumed by flames around Montiferru, near the center of the island's second-largest island.

Authorities evacuated 200 people from the town of Cuglieri overnight and another 155 from Sennariolo, where flames, according to the mayor, still had not reached residential areas. More than half of those evacuated in

Cuglieri were allowed to return home Sunday, the news agency ANSA reported.

Eleven aircraft were working to put out the flames, the head of the island's civil protection agency, Antonio Belloi, told ANSA.

Efforts were being hampered by hot southwesterly winds, putting the fire danger level at "extreme."

ASIAN BRIEFS

China sends supplies to flooded area, rebuilds barriers

XINXIANG, China (AP)—Trucks carrying water and food on Sunday streamed into a Chinese city hit hard by flooding that killed at least 63 people, while soldiers laid sandbags to fill gaps in river dikes that have left neighborhoods under water. Residents cleared away mud, wrecked cars and other debris after record rains that started Tuesday and flooded streets and disrupted train service in Henan province. The rains have subsided, but some neighborhoods were still waiting for water up to two meters (six feet) deep to drain. The provincial government raised the death toll to 63 on Sunday, with five people missing, state TV reported. It said 8,876

Overdrive

Honda Accord is a luxe sedan in a mainstream wrapper

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

Some cars stick with you. The 10th generation Honda Accord is one of those vehicles.

I remember when it arrived in my driveway in 2017. Coupe-like profile. Tablet infotainment screen astride a clean interior. Smooth 252-horsepower turbo-4. It was a luxury sedan with a mainstream badge. Slap four rings on the mega-grille and most would think it was an Audi A6.

The Accord was perhaps the first vehicle that made me realize the gap between mainstream and luxury vehicles was shrinking. Fast. So when the 2021 Accord arrived in my driveway this summer, I was eager to see if one of my favorite dance partners still had it.

Without a doubt.

Indeed, like “Formula 1: Drive to Survive,” the Accord keeps getting better with each season. For its mid-cycle 2021 model year refresh, Accord gets a few upgrades while my favorite Sport trim (in a lineup that runs from LX to Touring trims, including a hybrid) gained just \$640 in price. My Accord Sport tester was dressed in knockout Sonic Gray Pearl wardrobe, 19-inch wheels, black deck spoiler, 8-inch touchscreen tablet, sunroof.

Pardon me, but I couldn’t help noticing you across the room.

All that for just, ahem, \$33,500. Which is \$23,000 cheaper than, say, a comparably equipped Audi A6. You could buy a brand new 2022 Honda Civic Sport (another Made-in-America all-star from the Japanese brand) with the money you save. Think I’m making this up? Let’s pull the specs.

Both Audi and Honda sport

turbo-4 cylinder engines. Accord’s 252-horsepower mill sprints 0-60 in 5.4 seconds vs. the Audi’s 5.8, despite the German’s all-wheel-drive traction. Both have adaptive cruise control, blind spot assist, auto high beams. Both have digital, configurable instrument displays. Sunroof? Check. My wife’s favorite, wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto? Yup.

Sure, the plush Audi’s all-wheel-drive system will more confidently deliver you home through winter storms. But the Honda has bragging rights, too. For instance, superior ergonomics, console storage and rear leg room. Heck, the Accord’s ridiculous 40.4 inches of rear legroom is not only three inches more than the Audi—it’s just three inches shy of a Ford F-150 Super Crew. At 6’5” tall, I sat behind myself in the Accord without my knobby knees reaching the seatback.

The Accord is more than just specs.

Powered by Honda engines, Red Bull’s Formula 1 team is neck-and-neck with Mercedes right now. This is a company serious about blending driving performance with everyday practicality, and Accord is engaging to drive despite its big dimensions.

Accord Sport and I danced through the twisties on M-32—Sonic Gray dress flowing behind. Across sun-soaked and dripping-wet asphalt the sedan always felt balanced, its long wheelbase rotating nicely through corners with little push.

Honda is expert at putting torque to the road in front-wheel-drive cars (see the 292-horse Civic Type R hellion), and Accord’s no different. The front hooves would squeal

JAMES HALFACRE/HONDA/TNS
The 2021 Honda Accord.

when I put 252 ponies to cold pavement out of stoplights—but never with torque-steer. And, you’ll be happy to know, dear reader, the Accord doesn’t do that annoying engine stop/start thing at stoplights.

With the Mazda 6 exiting the midsize sedan segment, Accord may be the new benchmark. The Sport certainly aims to please with a 10-speed transmission that rev-matched on downshifts in Sport mode while delivering crisp, quick shifts when racing through the gears.

I stopped at Summertime Rentals in East Jordan, where the Accord’s new wardrobe turned my friend (and fellow motorhead) Aaron’s head. He, too, appreciates Honda’s double threat of value/performance and had owned a previous-gen Accord. This gen adds a third element: looks.

The Sonic Gray color highlights the Honda’s lively lines—just run your hand along the deep stampings that form Accord’s high shoulders. They’re complemented by subtle scalloping in the quarter panel. A lovely dish, even if I cringe at the Black Hole grille.

I know, I know ... it’s all the fashion these days.

As attractive as the Honda is, it’s indicative of my fellow Americans’ obsession with high-ridin’ hatchback utes that Accord sales are just 52% of what they were a decade ago before the SUV-nami.

But for those who still covet sedans, Accord is the total package. When my corner carving is over, the Honda is an effortless, state-of-the-art driving experience.

For the long trek up I-75, Accord’s huge trunk swallowed two carry-ons, two tennis bags, a box full of iRacing equipment (pedals, steering wheel, etc.) and other odds and ends. Wireless smartphone-connect is one of the great equalizers between luxury and mainstream cars. My wife slipped into the car and the screen quickly recognized her phone—displaying Google Maps directions for our trip.

On a return journey, the screen did the same for my Android Auto. That’s just the beginning of Honda tech. The Honda Sensing suite (adaptive cruise control, lane keep, lane departure mitigation) provides excellent self-driving assist.

With the speedo set at 80 mph, the Accord stayed centered in its lane—comfortably keeping its distance from other vehicles—giving up only on extended interstate turns. I reckon it’s on par with a 2016-vintage Tesla Autopilot (before recent over-the-air upgrades).

The cabin was quiet, which Mrs. Payne loved—though I frankly yearned for more engine sound penetration so I could hear the 10-speed’s rev-matching downshifts when under the cane. VW/Audi has long been an engineer-

ing benchmark for steering wheel buttons allowing easy feature access—a lesson Accord has learned with wheel quadrants that let your fingers do the walking for instrument display-menus, cruise control, voice commands and so on.

The console “trigger shifter” is also an engineering marvel. Long a staple in Acura models (there’s that narrowing of luxe/mainstream again), the shifter made it easy to negotiate gears as I negotiated beach parking lots up and down Lake Michigan.

Quick. High-tech. Roomy. And better-looking than the homely CR-V SUV (my Accord Sport even came with a family SUV-like backseat reminder in case you left junior behind). But I do have one hesitation in recommending Accord: little brother Civic Sport just unveiled a quick, high-tech, roomy, good-looking hatchback.

In (yum) Boost Blue Pearl wardrobe. Civic starts at \$23,000 when it arrives later this year. Accord Sport or Civic hatch? If you were budgeting for an Audi A6, you could buy them both.

NUTS & BOLTS

- Vehicle type: Front-engine, front-wheel-drive, five-passenger sedan
- Price: \$25,765, including \$995 destination fee (\$33,500 Sport as tested)
- Powerplant: 1.5-liter turbo-4 cylinder; 2.0-liter turbo-4; hybrid with 4-cylinder engine mated to electric motor
- Power: 192 horsepower, 192 pound-feet of torque (1.5L); 252 horsepower, 273 pound-feet of torque (2.0L); 212 combined horsepower (hybrid)
- Transmissions: Automatic,

- continuously variable transmission (CVT); 10-speed automatic; single-speed auto (hybrid)
- Performance: 0-60 mph (5.4 sec., Car and Driver); top speed, 126 mph
- Weight: 3,380 pounds (Sport as tested)
- Fuel economy: EPA, 22 mpg city/32 highway/26 combined (2.0L as tested)
- Report card
- Highs: Great bod; upscale interior with everything in the right place
- Lows: Oh, that face
- Overall: 4 stars

MOTORMOUTH: How can I turn this off?

Q: I recently bought a 2021 Ford F-150 with the center lane control. When driving on a straight road, such as I-94, etc., the light comes on telling me to hold my hands on the steering wheel every few minutes or more often, unless I move the wheel several times a minute. I am 85 years old, and I can hold the wheel straight, without moving it, but the “Put Your Hands on the Wheel” message comes on constantly. I don’t like to drive having to move the wheel all the time. The only way to stop it is to turn off the cruise control. Is there any way to eliminate that part to remove that feature?

A: You are unable to remove the feature, but you can switch it off. Check your owner’s manual for the location of the switch that turns the lane-keeping feature on or off. The action you choose will be stored until you manually change again.

Q: I saw the item today about Subaru and Bluetooth. I had the same problem pairing my phone with my wife’s car that became my hand-me-down. I deleted all instances of her phone to no avail. I found the solution was to pair the phone via the steering wheel controls, instead of the radio controls. It seems like they are separate systems somehow. It’s

worked perfectly since. If it is possible, I hope you can let K.L. in Milwaukee know about this solution.

A: I checked out the link you sent and then an owner’s manual. Instructions say to do exactly what you did. Weird. I am happy to pass it along and hope K.L. sees this.

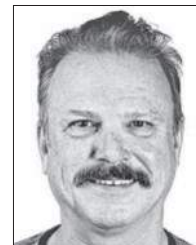
Q: Our 2015 Chevrolet Impala (odometer 75,800) has been very reliable. It was seen for regular maintenance at our independent garage June 17 for an oil change and lube. Oil spots started immediately appearing on our driveway and garage floor. Five days later, we took it back to the mechanic for re-view. He noted there was oil

on the car frame which “must have splashed when oil plug was removed.” I disagreed indicating this car had never had any type of leak prior. We got tired of seeing oil spots, so we took it to a Chevrolet dealership one month after the original oil change. The service adviser said they couldn’t identify any leak, but said they also saw oil on the car’s frame. They degreased the frame again and said, “everything was fine.” It is not. My estimate would be about two ounces daily. There is no oil light on the dashboard. Any ideas?

A: Oil leaks can be a devil to find. Since it started leaking

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber’s work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



after an oil change, I would suspect a problem with the drain plug or its O-ring. My second guess would be the oil filter. It may be damaged or the wrong one for the car. The oil pressure sensor is another common leak source, but probably not right after an

oil change. The best way to find a leak is with ultraviolet dye and a black light. After cleaning the engine and surrounding area, pour some dye into the oil. After driving for a day or two, shine a black light and the leak will show up iridescent green.

Life & Style

Prosecutors air more claims in R. Kelly case; 1 involves boy

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal prosecutors in R. Kelly's sex trafficking case say he had sexual contact with an underage boy in addition to girls, and the government wants jurors in his upcoming sex trafficking trial to hear those claims.

Prosecutors aired a wide-ranging raft of additional allegations—but not new charges—against the R&B star in a court filing Friday. Jury selec-

tion is due to start Aug. 9 in a New York federal court for Kelly, who denies ever abusing anyone.

A message was sent Saturday to his lawyers about the additional allegations.

The Grammy Award-winning singer is charged with leading what prosecutors call a criminal enterprise of managers, bodyguards and other employees who allegedly helped him recruit women and

girls for sex and pornography and to exercise a lot of control over them.

The charges involve six different women and girls, who aren't named in court filings.

Now, prosecutors would also like jurors to hear about more than a dozen other people whom the government alleges that Kelly sexually or physically abused, threatened or otherwise mistreated.

Among them, the government says, was a 17-year-old boy and aspiring musician whom Kelly met at a McDon-

ald's in December 2006 and later invited to his Chicago studio. After asking the boy what he would do to make it in the music business, Kelly propositioned and had sexual contact with him while he was still underage, according to prosecutors' court filing.

And when Kelly was about to go on trial on child pornography charges in Chicago in 2008, the same youth told the



R. Kelly

singer he had access to a juror, and Kelly asked him to contact the juror and vouch he was a "good guy," prosecutors wrote.

The filing doesn't say whether the youth did so. Kelly was acquitted in that case.

The boy also introduced Kelly to a 16- or 17-year-old male friend, with whom prosecutors say the singer began a sexual relationship several years later. Kelly also filmed the two youths in sexual en-

counters with other people, including some of Kelly's girlfriends, according to the filing.

Prosecutors wrote that the accounts of the boys and others would help show that the actual charges "were not isolated events and were part of a larger pattern."

The multiplatinum-selling singer, born Robert Sylvester Kelly, is known for work including the 1996 hit "I Believe I Can Fly" and the cult classic "Trapped in the Closet," a multi-part tale of sexual betrayal and intrigue.

Madrid's Retiro park, Prado avenue join World Heritage list

MADRID (AP)—Madrid's tree-lined Paseo del Prado boulevard and the adjoining Retiro park have been added to UNESCO's World Heritage list.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee, holding an online meeting from Fuzhou, China, backed the candidacy on Sunday that highlighted the green area's introduction of nature into Spain's capital. The influence the properties have had on the designs of other cities in Latin America was also applauded by committee members.

"Collectively, they illustrate the aspiration for a utopian society during the height of the Spanish Empire," UNESCO said.

The Retiro park occupies 1.2 square kilometers (1.3 square miles) in the center of Madrid. Next to it runs the Paseo del Prado, which includes a promenade for pedestrians. The boulevard connects the heart of Spain's art world, bringing together the Prado Museum with the Thyssen-

Bornemisza Museum and the Reina Sofia Art Centre.

The boulevard dates back to 16th century while the park was originally for royal use in the 17th century before it was fully opened to the public in 1848.

"Today, in these times of pandemic, in a city that has suffered enormously for the past 15 months, we have a reason to celebrate with the first world heritage site in Spain's capital," said Madrid mayor José Luis Martínez-Almeida.

The site is number 49 for Spain on the UNESCO list.

Also on Sunday, the committee added China's Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan, India's Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple, and the Trans-Iranian railway to the World Heritage list.

World Heritage sites can be examples of outstanding natural beauty or manmade buildings. The sites can be important geologically or ecologically, or they can be key for human culture and tradition.

On a quiet weekend, 'Old' tops, 'Snake Eyes' sinks

M. Night Shyamalan's "Old" easily won a slower weekend at the North American box office, while the G.I. Joe pic "Snake Eyes" lived up to its name.

Although both fresh offerings from major studios, moviegoers turned out in modest numbers on a weekend where there was the notable distraction of the Olympics as well as rising concerns about the delta variant.

Universal on Sunday said that "Old" grossed an estimated \$16.5 million. Paramount's "Snake Eyes" origin story brought in an estimated \$13.4 million in ticket sales.

While not wildly far apart in grosses, "Snake Eyes," starring Henry Golding as the warrior-in-training, cost significantly more with a reported \$88 million price tag, excluding advertising.

Meanwhile "Old," starring Gael García Bernal and Vicky Krieps as the heads of a family whose tropical vaca-



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Gael García Bernal and Vicky Krieps in a scene from "Old." (UNIVERSAL PICTURES VIA AP)

tion turns into a horror when they begin to rapidly age, was independently financed for around \$18 million. Including international grosses, "Old," which is based on the graphic novel "Sandcastle," grossed \$23 million worldwide in its first weekend.

"It's an extraordinary debut," said Jim Orr, Universal's head of distribution. "M. Night Shyamalan is an amazing filmmaker and one of the

best in the industry."

Orr said he also expects "Old" will continue to play well in the coming weeks.

Neither audiences nor critics reviewed the two new films especially well. "Old" has a 52% on Rotten Tomatoes and got a C+ CinemaScore, while "Snake Eyes" is currently at 42% on Rotten Tomatoes with a B- CinemaScore, which historically does not bode well for long-term potential.

Disney and Marvel's "Black Widow" crept ahead to third place with \$11.6 million, bringing its global total to \$314.9 million, while last week's No. 1 film "Space Jam: A New Legacy" grossed \$9.6 million, down 69% from last weekend. Both are available to watch at home too: "Space Jam" is streaming on HBO Max, while Disney+ subscribers can rent "Black Widow" for \$30.

"This is part of the natural ebb and flow of the box office as we are still on the road to recovery," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "You're going to have bigger weekends, and you're going to have smaller weekends. It's still an unusual marketplace."

The entire North American box office weekend generated around \$68 million in revenue, according to Comscore. It's a far cry from just three weeks ago when "Black Widow" alone made \$80 million.

Young adult struggling as a full-time caregiver

DEAR ABBY: I'm 23 years old and caring for my two grandparents. My dad, their only son, lives with them, but avoids them at all costs, no matter how much I beg him to help. He causes more problems than he solves. I graduated from college last year, but because of all the doctor appointments, nurse visits and the attention they need, there's no way I can work. My life is completely absorbed in caring for them.

I'm going crazy! They don't want to leave their home and won't pay me or anyone else to care for them, but they need round-the-clock care. I'm not asking for help with THEM, I'm asking for help with balance. How can I be a young adult and full-time caregiver?

IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

DEAR I.D.C.: You can't. The longer you allow this to continue, the more trapped you will become. Contact senior services and inform them about what's going on with your dad and your grandparents. Then find a job. I am sure there are many available openings right now. You may have to continue living with your grandparents for a while, but as soon as you can manage it, you should live independently.

As to your father, tell him that if he doesn't accept at least some of the responsibility for his parents' care, you

will report him to adult protective services for neglect. It may not make you popular, but if you don't assume control of your future, you will become increasingly isolated.

DEAR ABBY: I have a strong, healthy bond with my 5- and 8-year-old daughters. When the older one was 6, my wife taught her not to let me see her naked when using the bathroom and bathing. That broke my heart. I'm OK with it now, but my wife is now discouraging them from sitting on my lap. I'm a loving and responsible dad, and I would never do any harm to my kids, or do the things my wife thinks I will do. What should I do?

NOT TRUSTED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NOT TRUSTED: What you should do is discuss with her the reasons for her fears about the safety of your daughters. The answer may be that when she was small, she was molested by a male relative she trusted. There is nothing wrong with 5-year-old and 8-year-old girls sitting on their father's lap. What is troubling is your wife's reaction to it.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of six months (whom I do not live with) refuses to agree not to contact his ex-girlfriends. He refuses to send me copies of emails or texts from them, and won't agree to allow me to send a polite, but firm, email re-

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



questing they stop contacting him, even though his therapist said it was OK to send. What should I do?

DISTRUSTFUL IN NEW YORK

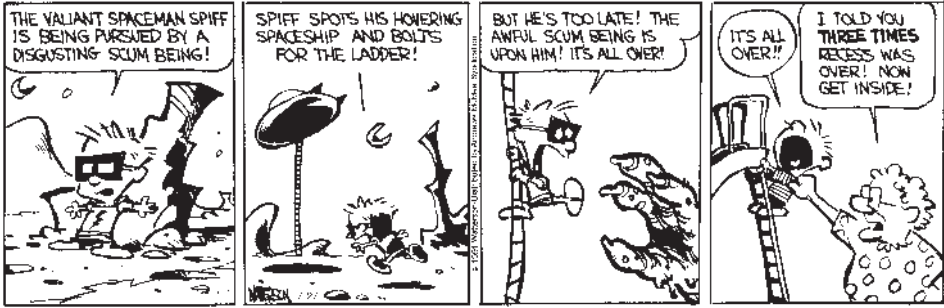
DEAR DISTRUSTFUL: The person you married clearly isn't ready for the responsibilities of being a husband. Ask him if he's willing to meet with a licensed marriage and family therapist. If he is unwilling, talk to a lawyer about an annulment. If you do, you may save yourself years of frustration and heartache.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



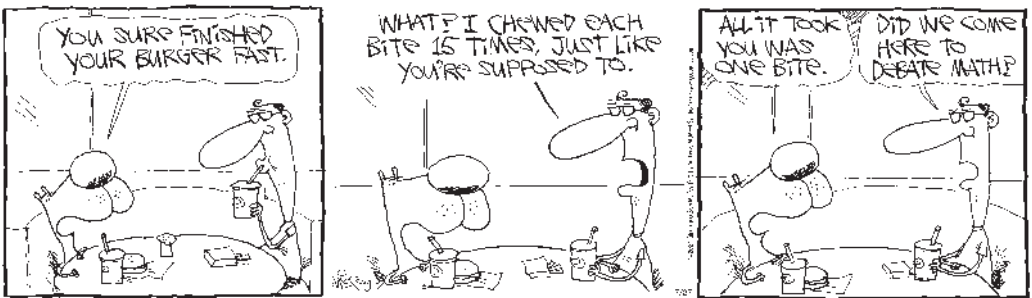
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Curses 38 Soviet labor 5 Chai, e.g. camps 8 Story 41 Con-vened 12 Type of dancer 42 Border on 13 Singer DiFranco 43 Golf club 14 "Yeah, right" 48 Actress Russo 15 Unfaithful one 49 Mentalist's claim 17 Dressed 50 Diamond Head locale 19 Impostors 51 Pitt of "Money-ball" 24 Hot dog holder 52 Apt. divisions 25 Utah city 53 Leopard's feature 26 Like some light bulbs

DOWN 21 Horse-shoe site 22 Sandwich treat 23 Andean land 24 Basel's river 26 Carry over 27 Wee songbird 28 First-rate 29 Hanker-ings 31 Advertise 34 Not suitable for kids 35 Cookout spots 37 Quilters' get-together 38 Attire 39 Taxi alternative 40 Moth variety 41 Star athletes, briefly 44 Belief 45 Knock 46 Sound of surprise 47 Fanatic

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonathan Rhys Meyers, 44; Ryan Michelle Bathe, 45; Cassandra Clare, 48; Maya Rudolph, 49.

Happy Birthday: Wasting time on the impossible will not get you anywhere. Step outside the box, smell the roses and head in a direction that's not only inviting, but doable. Maximize your time, and you will surpass your expectations. Don't let uncertainty be your nemesis. Stretch your mind, explore what excites you and forge ahead with enthusiasm. Your numbers are 3, 14, 21, 27, 34, 38, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look for a direct route to avoid confusion. You'll require discipline if you want to forgo backtracking. Reach out to someone in the know, and it will help you eliminate mistakes. Put your energy where it counts, and don't look back. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Uncertainty will set in if you give others the go-ahead to make decisions for you. If you do things yourself, you'll gain perspective and make connections that will help you advance. Romance is on the rise. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Learn from experience and stay in control. You know what you want better than anyone, so follow through with your plans from beginning to end. Don't forgo an opportunity to please someone insecure. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Step up and do things your way. Take control, make a statement and expand your circle of friends. An adjustment to please a friend, relative or lover will lead to an unexpected opportunity. Romance will enhance your personal life. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look for alternative learning methods that will keep you sharp, current and better equipped to navigate your way to the top. Change begins within, and discipline and determination will help you reach your destination. Focus on what's important to you. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Use your imagination and express your intentions, and you'll captivate the minds of like-minded people. Step into a leadership position and lay down a strategy that will lead to opportunities and positive change. A lifestyle adjustment is favored. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Gather information that will help you determine your best professional or financial move. Share unique alternatives that show your ability to think outside the box. Take the initiative and be a problem solver, and doors will open. Group endeavors will gain recognition. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Spend more time working toward a personal goal. Make an effort to declutter your space. Letting go of the past will set you free and prompt you to start a new chapter in your life. Don't make excuses; end the stalemate. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Refuse to let anyone play with your emotions. Question whatever sounds suspicious, and be practical when dealing with others and their ideas. Focus on personal growth, finan-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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cial independence and going it alone, and you'll avoid interference. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take the route that suits your needs. Put more time into staying fit and healthy and building equity and financial stability. The aim is to ease stress, not to ramp it up. A positive change will lead to a carefree future. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stop worrying about what others do; pay attention to what you can do to make your life better. Take responsibility and put your plans in motion. Don't diminish what you can do; set high standards and strive to reach your goal. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Turn a negative into a positive. A change someone makes will benefit you if you are quick to react and take advantage of what's available. Create what you want in your mind, then make it happen. A partnership opportunity has potential. ***

Birthday Baby: You are resourceful, intuitive and expressive. You are optimistic and amicable.

☺ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼ Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

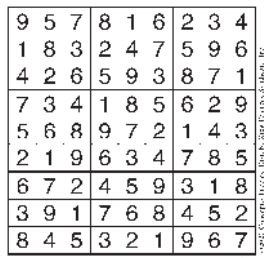
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ 7/27 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

UNCLES ARE GREAT! Solution: 5 letters

P V C J N E T S I L E T T E R
L E A E J O K E S P O R T R H
A H R R Y A E T A V I T O M G
Y I N S T H L E I V O M F C U
F C I E O U T E D I U G A G A
U L V Y F N Y A D H T R I B L
L E A P K R A P P G D F R A F
R E L Z Z U P L N M T G Y U E
N E P H E W E I I S E O N E C
H S H C W A L K N T L N C F L
B N E T D W A R M E Y A R A O
C I S E O U T D O O R I S M T
N O R B A R B E C U E E K I H
D C A N D Y B M E N T O R L E
B A C K Y A R D D A N C E Y S

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Backyard, Barbecue, Birthday, Bond, Bowling, Brother, Candy, Card, Carnival, Cars, Clothes, Coins, Dance, Empathy, Fair, Family, Friend, Funny, Gifts, Guide, Helpful, Hike, Humor, Jersey, Jokes, Laugh, Leader, Letter, Listen, Loyal, Mentor, Motivate, Movie, Nephew, Niece, Outdoor, Park, Personality, Playful, Puzzle, Race, Skate, Sport, Vehicle, Walk, Warm
Yesterday's Answer: Related
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 62 order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

If shots don't fall in Olympics, not a surprise when US does

SAITAMA, Japan (AP)—Kevin Durant had a shot. Then another about 20 seconds later.

Jrue Holiday had one. So did Zach LaVine and Bam Adebayo.

The U.S. had five attempts on the pivotal possession of its latest basketball failure and came up empty on all of them.

That not only doomed the Americans to an 83-76 loss to France on Sunday night, but it showed their problems might last well beyond their Olympic opener.

Because if a team can't shoot, it's not going to win.

"The ball goes in or it doesn't," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said.

It sure didn't fall much Sunday for the U.S. The Americans finished at 36% shooting overall and were 10 for 32 (31%) from 3-point range.

Durant, who holds a host of U.S. scoring records and should break more in this tournament, was 1 for 6 on 3-pointers. Jayson Tatum was 1 for 5. Damian Lillard was 3 for 9.

These are All-NBA players, shooting from a 3-point arc that's closer than they're used to.

"Sometimes you make shots and sometimes you don't," Popovich said. "It's not a question of what aspect of the game that you win or lose. It's accumulation of everything that went on during the game." The Americans undoubtedly had a difficult preparation for these Olympics. Their exhibition



schedule was reduced from five to four games after Bradley Beal was placed in health and safety protocols and ultimately couldn't travel to Japan. Another player had to be replaced when Kevin Love pulled out with injury.

And with Holiday, Khristian Middleton and Devin Booker only joining the team Saturday after missing training camp while playing in the NBA Finals,

nearly half the players missed some or all of the warmup run to the Olympics.

That means the Americans have to simplify their playbook, at least at the start. There are few sophisticated offensive sets because they simply haven't had time to learn them.

But that shouldn't cause shooting to suffer. And they

can't afford it to at this point, knowing they don't have much else they can call upon after such little time together.

Booker missed a 3-pointer that could have extended a two-point lead with 2:09 remaining. Evan Fournier's 3-pointer gave France the lead before the Americans misfired on multiple chances to

regain it.

Durant got good looks at the basket on both of his 3s during the five-shot possession that started with his miss with 44 seconds left. He was off on another with 25 seconds to go and Holiday missed one to end the possession.

"We gave them five chances in a row," France center Rudy Gobert said.

Durant, with two Olym-

United States' Javale Mc Gee, left, and forward Kevin Durant (7) walk off the court after their loss to France in a men's basketball preliminary round game at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Sunday, July 25, 2021, in Saitama, Japan.

pic gold medals and an MVP award from the 2010 world basketball championship, never got in a rhythm while battling foul trouble.

But he wasn't particularly sharp during exhibition games, when the Americans were beaten by Nigeria and Australia. Coming off such a strong finish to his NBA season, it's an untimely slump for the U.S.

The good news for the Americans was that Holiday was better than they could have hoped after arriving late Saturday night — this after partying with the Milwaukee Bucks following their NBA championship on Tuesday.

He seems to fill a pair of needs for the Americans, providing steady point guard play while able to defend even more physically than in the NBA.

If a few more guys pick up at his level, starting in the Americans' next game against Iran, the Americans think they can be a much different team than the one that wilted late against the French.

"We still have a chance to accomplish our goal," Holiday said, "and being consistent is the best way to do it."

TOKYO (AP)—Ariarne Titmus and Luka Doncic made memorable Olympic debuts.

Titmus lived up to the billing of her nickname the "Terminator" when she chased down Katie Ledecky in the 400 freestyle Monday to win one of the most anticipated races of the Summer Games.

Doncic scored 48 points in his first Olympic appearance to tie for the second most ever in men's basketball history, leading Slovenia to a 118-100 victory over Argentina.

Titmus trailed by nearly a full body-length at the halfway mark of the eight-lap race before erasing the gap and finishing in 3 minutes, 56.69 seconds. It was the second-fastest time in history, surpassed only by Ledecky's world record of 3:56.46 from the 2016 Rio Games.

"It's probably the biggest thing you could pull off in your sporting career," Titmus said, "so I'm over the moon."

Ledecky lost an individual Olympic final for the first time after winning the 800 free at the 2012 London Games, then capturing three more golds in the 200, 400 and 800 free at Rio de Janeiro five years ago.

Doncic scored 31 points in the first half, putting him

Titmus, Doncic make memorable Olympic debuts

on pace to break the Games' scoring record of 55 points by Brazilian Hall of Famer Oscar Schmidt in 1988. He ended up tied with Eddie Palubinskas, who had 48 for Australia in the 1976 Games in Montreal.

QUEST FOR SIX

Caeleb Dressel started his quest for six gold medals in swimming by leading the United States to victory in the men's 4x100-meter freestyle relay.

Dressel, who has been hailed as the successor to Michael Phelps, gave the U.S. the lead in the opening leg and his teammates made sure it stood up.

"I felt good the whole way, I knew I had to get my hand in the wall first and get some clean water," Dressel said. "And everyone did their job. It's a relay for a reason, it's four guys for a reason, it's certainly not just me. It's certainly not just one guy."

Dressel is competing in three individual events and two more relays in Tokyo.

TUNING UP

A dramatic comeback for the U.S. softball team against Japan earned the Americans a

small prize. When the countries play again it will be for the gold medal.

Kelsey Stewart homered leading off the seventh inning to lead the U.S. to a 2-1 victory to win the group stage and give it the right to bat last in the gold medal game. The longball was the first for the United States this tournament.

"It's like you dream about when you're a little kid, about hitting a home run at the Olympics, let alone a walkoff," Stewart said.

Monica Abbott pitched a perfect seventh in relief for her third win of the tournament. She is likely to start Tuesday's gold medal game, a day before her 36th birthday.

The Americans lost the gold medal game 3-1 to Japan in 2008, the previous time softball was in the Olympics.

TEEN SPIRIT

Youth was served at the debut of the Olympic skateboarding event for women.

Three teenagers swept the podium at the street event with 13-year-old Momiji Nishiya of Japan taking the gold medal, 13-year-old Rayssa Leal

of Brazil getting silver and 16-year-old Funa Nakayama of Japan winning bronze.

"It's going to change the whole game," U.S. skater Mariah Duran said. "This is like opening at least one door to, you know, many skaters who are having the conversations with their parents, who want to start skating."

SKIPPING OUT

A second judo athlete has dropped out of the Olympics before facing Israel's Tohar Butbul in the 73-kilogram division.

Olympic officials say Sudan's Mohamed Abdalrasool didn't show up to face Butbul in their round of 32 bout Monday despite weighing in for the bout earlier.

The International Judo Foundation didn't immediately announce a reason why Abdalrasool didn't compete, and the governing body didn't respond to requests for comment. Sudanese Olympic officials also didn't immediately comment.

Algeria's Fethi Nourine was sent home from the Tokyo Games and suspended by the IJF on Saturday after

he withdrew to avoid a potential round of 32 matchup with Butbul. Nourine was supposed to face Abdalrasool for the right to meet Butbul.

DeChambeau, Rahm out after positive COVID tests

Known for their towering drives, Bryson DeChambeau and Jon Rahm won't make it to the tee box at the Olympics.

The past two U.S. Open champions became the best-known athletes to drop out of the Tokyo Games on Sunday after testing positive for COVID-19.

DeChambeau's positive came before he left the United States for Tokyo. The muscle-bound American famous for his game-changing swing speed will be replaced by Patrick Reed.

"I am deeply disappointed not to be able to compete in the Olympics for Team USA," DeChambeau said in a statement. "Representing my country means the world to me and it is was a tremendous honor to make this team."

Rahm was flagged for COVID-19 for the second time in two months — he had a six-shot lead at the Memorial in

early June when he was forced to withdraw because of a positive test. The Spaniard said he had gotten his final vaccine shot fewer than 14 days before that positive.

Both players recently became first-time major champions. DeChambeau won the U.S. Open in 2020 at Winged Foot last fall, and Rahm took this year's title at Torrey Pines in June, two weeks after the positive test at Muirfield Village.

Several dozen Olympic athletes have tested positive either before leaving for Tokyo or after they arrived. Last week, U.S. tennis player Coco Gauff also tested positive before she left the United States.

Reed was scheduled to undergo testing Sunday and Monday to clear himself to compete in Tokyo. The first round of the men's tournament at the Kasumigaseki Country Club is set for Thursday. He will join Justin Thomas, Collin Morikawa and Xander Schauffele on the four-man U.S. team.

Spain said it would not seek to replace Rahm, leaving Adri Arnaus as its only player in the men's tournament, which starts Thursday at Kasumigaseki Country Club outside of Tokyo.

Red Sox score 5 runs in 8th inning, rally past Yankees



BOSTON
(AP)—Held

hitless into the eighth inning by Domingo Germán and looking feeble, Alex Verdugo and the Boston Red Sox suddenly erupted for five runs and stormed past the New York Yankees 5-4 Sunday.

Verdugo opened the eighth with a long double for Boston's first hit. Later, Kiké Hernández slid home headfirst on Xander Bogaerts' sacrifice fly with the go-ahead run to cap the rally.

The Red Sox won for the 10th time in 13 games against the Yankees and reclaimed first place in the AL East, a game ahead of Tampa Bay. New York fell nine games behind Boston.

Boston trailed 4-0 when Verdugo doubled to deep right, and Germán was lifted after the hit. Jonathan Loaisiga (7-4) relieved, and Boston broke loose with four straight hits. Hunter Renfroe had an RBI double, Christian Vázquez singled home a run and Hernández followed with an RBI double, cutting it to 4-3.

Zack Britton relieved and pinch-hitter Kevin Plawecki's groundout plated the tying run. Hernández hustled hard and beat right fielder Greg Allen's throw home on Bogaerts' sacrifice fly.

Brandon Workman (1-2) earned the win and Matt Barnes got the final three outs for his 21st save.

Rougned Odor had a solo homer and RBI single for New York.

White Sox 3, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Lance Lynn allowed one run over six innings and hit a two-run single to lift Chicago over Milwaukee.

Lynn (10-3) allowed six hits, struck out six and walked none, outdueling Brandon Woodruff in a matchup of All-Star right-handers.

Michael Kopech pitched a scoreless inning for Chicago and Liam Hendricks tossed two for his 24th save in 28 chances.

Woodruff (7-5) allowed three runs on five hits in seven innings, striking out nine and walking two. His ERA climbed from an NL-best 2.04 to 2.14 — which is just behind teammate Corbin Burnes' 2.12.

The White Sox scored all three runs in the second with two outs. Brian Goodwin walked and Leury Garcia singled. Seby Zavala followed with an RBI single, with both runners advancing on the throw. Lynn then lofted a single into shallow right field to score two more runs.

Phillies 2, Braves 1

In Philadelphia, Aaron Nola came within one out of a shutout, and Philadelphia splits its four-



game series against Atlanta.

Nola allowed four hits and struck out nine in 8 2/3 innings. Ranger Suarez got the final out for his fourth save of the season.

Jean Segura hit a solo homer in the fourth and Ronald Torreyes homered in the eighth for the Phillies.

Atlanta's Austin Riley went deep with two outs in the ninth to chase Nola (7-6). Riley had three of the four Atlanta hits, including two doubles.

Touki Toussaint (1-1) matched Nola pitch for pitch for most of the afternoon.

Orioles 5, Nationals 4

In Baltimore, Ryan McKenna scored on a sharp grounder by Ramon Urias for the winning run as Baltimore completed a three-game sweep of Washington.

Trey Mancini, Maikel Franco and McKenna hit solo homers for the Orioles, who improved to 1-51 when trailing after eight innings.

Orioles starter John Means allowed four runs and five hits with two strikeouts and one walk over six innings. He also hit three batters. Cole Sulser (3-1) earned the win by throwing one-third of an inning.

Brad Hand (5-4) hit Franco, gave up a single to McKenna and walked Austin Hays to start the ninth. Pat Valaika tied the game with a sacrifice fly before Urias hit a hard ground ball that was snagged by third baseman Carter Kieboom, who threw to the plate. McKenna slid home with the winning run, and the play was upheld after a replay review.

Ryan Zimmerman hit a three-run homer for the Nationals.

Cardinals 10, Reds 6

In Cincinnati, Harrison Bader

and Dylan Carlson homered during a seven-run burst in the fourth inning and St. Louis beat Cincinnati.

Nolan Arenado hit his 20th home run and tripled, and Tyler O'Neill also connected for the Cardinals.

Cincinnati starter Sonny Gray (2-6) was tagged for a career-high eight runs, allowing eight hits and a walk in 3 1/3 innings.

Joey Votto homered for the second straight day as the Reds finished 3-6 on their nine-game homestand.

Cardinals starter Johan Oviedo was in position for his first career win before Cincinnati loaded the bases with one out in the fifth, prompting bench coach Oliver Marmol to bring in Ryan Helsley (5-4), who got the final two outs.

Indians 3, Rays 2

In Cleveland, Bobby Bradley's sacrifice fly in the eighth inning capped Cleveland's comeback and ended the Indians' 11-game losing streak to Tampa Bay.

The Indians managed just one run in seven innings against Tampa Bay starter Ryan Yarbrough and rallied in the eighth off reliever Matt Wisler (3-4).

James Karinchak (7-2) pitched one inning and Emmanuel Clase worked the ninth for his 12th save as the Indians won for just the sixth time in 22 games.

Nelson Cruz hit his second homer in three games for Tampa Bay.

Mets 5, Blue Jays 4

In New York, Pete Alonso homered, pinch-hitter Jeff McNeil broke a tie with a two-run double and New York beat Toronto in a successful debut

for new starter Rich Hill.

The 41-year-old Hill threw only 49 pitches over the first five innings and worked around three leadoff doubles, carrying a four-hit shutout into the sixth. Five relievers followed Hill and held Toronto to one run over four innings. Edwin Díaz struck out three in a hitless ninth for his 21st save in 26 chances.

Alonso hit three homers as New York took two of three in the series.

Seth Lugo (3-1) earned the win. Jacob Barnes (1-2) took the loss.

Marlins 9, Padres 3

In Miami, Deven Marrero and Brian Anderson homered off Yu Darvish, who allowed four runs in five innings, and Miami earned a split of its four-game series against San Diego.

Darvish (7-5) needed 23 pitches to get through the first inning. Manny Machado hit his 17th homer for the Padres.

Marrero had three hits, including his first home run since 2017, and Anderson hit his fourth homer of the year. Lewis Brinson added a three-run homer off Nabil Crismatt.

Anthony Bender (2-1) allowed one run in two innings on a bullpen day for Miami. Seven pitchers combined to allow five hits.

Royals 6, Tigers 1

In Kansas City, Mo., Jorge Soler hit two home runs, Salvador Perez added a three-run blast and Daniel Lynch pitched eight scoreless innings for his first major league win as Kansas City beat Detroit for its fifth straight win.

The Royals finished the afternoon with eight hits and only two left on base in sweeping the three-game series.

^{AP}
Boston Red Sox's Alex Verdugo raises his arms after arriving at second base on a double that broke up New York Yankees pitcher Domingo German's no-hitter in the eighth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, July 25, 2021, in Boston.

After being recalled from Triple-A Omaha on Sunday morning, Lynch (1-2) gave up five hits and struck out four.

Eric Haas tacked on the lone run for the Tigers off of Ervin Santana in the ninth.

Tarik Skubal (6-9) gave up five runs on five hits in five innings of work with four strikeouts.

Astros 3, Rangers 1

In Houston, Zack Greinke threw six solid innings, Abraham Toro homered and Houston sent Texas to its 12th straight loss.

The Rangers' skid is tied for second-longest in team history and the first time they've dropped a dozen in a row since 1982. The Texas record is 15 straight losses in September 1972. The Rangers' 0-10 road trip was the worst in team history.

Greinke (10-3) yielded one run on five hits with four strikeouts. Cristian Javier threw two perfect innings, and Ryan Pressly pitched the ninth for his 18th save.

Danny Santana (0-1) took the loss for Texas.

Angels 6, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 35th home run and Los Angeles beat Minnesota.

Ohtani, had two hits, and his solo homer in the sixth snapped a 2-all tie. Max Stassi had three hits and drove in three runs for the Angels.

Max Kepler and Brent Rooker led off with back-to-back home runs for the Twins, now a season-worst 16 games under .500.

Jaime Barria (1-0), recalled from Triple-A Salt Lake for his first start of the season, allowed two hits and struck out four in seven innings.

left-handed Danny Coulombe (1-1) allowed Ohtani's homer and took the loss.

Cubs 5, Diamondbacks 1

In Chicago, Kris Bryant, Anthony Rizzo and David Bote homered, Trevor Williams pitched effectively into the seventh inning, and Chicago beat Arizona. Bryant and Bote each hit two-run shots as Chicago took two of three in the series.

Williams (4-2) struck out six and allowed five hits with no walks over 6 1/3 innings in his first scoreless outing of the season. Craig Kimbrel came on to get the final out for his 23rd save.

Andrew Young had a pinch-hit RBI single and Pavin Smith had two hits for the Diamondbacks, who had won five of six.

Arizona starter Caleb Smith (3-7) allowed five runs on three hits in six innings.

Giants 6, Pirates 1

In San Francisco, LaMonte Wade Jr. homered twice and San Francisco beat Pittsburgh to avoid a three-game sweep.

Wilmer Flores and Thairo Estrada also went deep for San Francisco. The Giants improved to a majors-best 62-37 and maintained their slim lead over the Dodgers in the NL West heading into a series between the two division rivals this week at Oracle Park.

Alex Wood (9-3) struck out eight and pitched into the sixth for San Francisco.

Bryan Reynolds had two hits and scored for the Pirates.

JT Brubaker (4-10) allowed two runs and three hits with six strikeouts in four innings. He is winless since May 29.

Dodgers 3, Rockies 2

In Los Angeles, Will Smith hit a go-ahead home run in the eighth inning and Los Angeles beat Colorado.

Chris Taylor added a pair of home runs and the short-handed Dodgers won consecutive games against the Rockies with just four total runs.

Phil Bickford (1-1) earned the victory by working a scoreless inning. Joe Kelly pitched a scoreless ninth inning for his first save. Carlos Estevez (2-2) took the loss.

Elias Diaz hit a home run for the Rockies and Trevor Story had an RBI single.

The Dodgers did not have either Mookie Betts (hip) or Cody Bellinger (hamstring) in the starting lineup. Corey Seager (hand) has been out since May.

Mariners 4, Athletics 3

In Seattle, Kyle Seager hit a two-out, two-run single as part of Seattle's four-run third inning and Marco Gonzales won his second straight decision in a victory over Oakland.

Seattle took three of four in the series. The Mariners (54-46) are eight games over .500 for the first time since April 2019 and improved to 23-8 in one-run games.

Gonzales (3-5) and four relievers made the Mariners' early offense hold up, allowing one run and three hits over the final six innings. Gonzales allowed two runs and five hits in 5 2/3 innings. He struck out four and threw a season-high 105 pitches.

Matt Olson hit his 27th homer, Seth Brown had a pinch-hit solo homer and Stephen Piscotty had an RBI double for the A's. Cole Irvin (7-9) took the loss.

Heat beat all-girls Sparks in U15 finals

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Miami finally got one against Los Angeles when the local version of the Heat topped an all-girls Sparks team, 30-9, in the U15 championship of the 2021 NMI Rollers Summer Bash last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Sparks of coach Marlene Lumabi got on the board first after a 3-pointer by Kaia Travilla, but it was all Heat after that as the boys of coach Jun Estolas ran away with the victory.

Kyrel Caraig paced the champions in scoring with 12 points, followed by Estolas' son Eros with 9 markers. Travilla paced the unbowed all-girls team with 5 points while point guard Fiona Bucalig added 4 markers.

SONG

From Page 20

ning the 800m in an upset of rising star Tiana Cabrera.

The daughter of CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jeff Race topped the women's open 800m after crossing the finish line in 2:41.66. Cabrera came in second overall and first in the women's 18-and-under in 2:45.59, while Anika Snyder was third overall at 3:02.57 and second in the open.

Race said winning the 800m came as a shock to her. "I was actually surprised. I haven't ran an 800m in five years or so since high school. I kind of just got out to have fun and see where I'm at thinking about the Mini Games next year. I'm thinking about it and I would like to run the 800m, 1,500m,

TRAINING

From Page 20

technical director added.

Without international exposures, Mita said the NMI U18 players tried to work on their individual and team games during the M-League Spring 2021 where the team finished second to TanHoldings Football Club in Division A and led the competition in goal difference. However, the style and level of play in the M-League are definitely different from off-island games, so the NMI 18 team welcomes the training camp in Guam.

"We set up plays for international standards. However, the domestic league is much different from the international play where opponents' speed and pressure of the game are at the different level. Playing against Guam, our boys would get to experience that different speed and pressure. Through

The rest of the Heat are Franklin Erich, William Yue, Art Travilla, and Jake Regalado. The squad of coach Lumabi was also made up of Raina Avelino, Andrea Ramos, Kaeli Pathil, and Steph Flores.

Coach Estolas said even though they were facing an all-girls team in the finals, he told his boys to give no quarters and play like it's any other finals game.

"The girls are also going to Guam to play in a tournament so I told my team to give them tough defense so they could experience that in a game to toughen them up for future competition," he said.

He also commended his team for being coachable and always willing to learn and listen and those qualities, he said, led them to the championship of the U15 division.

Lumabi said despite the runner-up finish, the Sparks by making it to the championship

3,000, 5,000 whatever I can and who knows."

In the 200m, incoming Marianas High School senior Liana DLG Acosta continued to turn heads with a time of 29.42 to top all comers. She was followed in the women's 18-and-under by Cabrera at 32.36 and Maria Quitugua at 33.1.

She said topping the 200m was also a pleasant surprise considering she only started training for the event a few weeks ago. "I just pushed myself," she said.

Aside from the Friday's 800m and 200m, NMA also held events in the 3,000m last Friday and 100m, javelin, and discus last Saturday. Results of the latter three events will be published in the next issues of the *Saipan Tribune*.

these matches we will know our progress," Mita said.

The visiting team will meet Guam U18 squad twice with the first match set for 7pm tonight and second this Thursday at 6pm. Before the evening matches, the NMI U18 crew will have training sessions every morning beginning today until Thursday. A two-hour training session was also set yesterday and the squad will follow the same schedule on Thursday night.

Meanwhile, NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta thanked GFA president Tino San Gil, executive director Cheri Stewart, and all GFA staff for their full support to the two training camps. The host FA provided NMI players, including the NMI Women's National Team that had their training camp in Guam last week, with equipment, training rooms, and two vehicles.



round proved that the girls can certainly play with the boys.

"I'm super pumped. It's actually been a while since we

had a tournament that we had good amount of girls that came out. So our last scrimmage was January and this is our first

IT&E sponsors NMBA's second competition

IT&E is the title sponsor of Northern Marianas Badminton Association's second competition of the season.

NMBA's second event for 2021 is dubbed as the IT&E Badminton Team Tournament and will feature 71 players who are spread out into five squads. The team event will kick off this Friday at the TSL Sports Complex and will run for two weekends.

Rob Harrel, IT&E executive director for Customer Operations, said supporting sports competitions, such as the NMBA-organized event is the company's way of giving back to the community.

"We're big on supporting events, like sports tournaments, that benefit and '#unITE' our community. We want to encourage our community to keep moving and live a healthy and active lifestyle," Harrell said.

He added that they are pleased with how the IT&E Badminton Team Tournament offers the youth and adults alike opportunities to explore new skills.

Meanwhile, NMBA president Merlie Tolentino thanked



From left, Northern Marianas Badminton Association vice president Nate Guerrero, president Merlie Tolentino, IT&E Customer Operations executive director Rob Harrel, NMBA general secretary Christy Villaflor, and director Janelle Pangilinan pose for a photo during the donation turnover ceremony for the IT&E Badminton Team Tournament yesterday at the company's Susupe office.

IT&E for its unwavering support and hopes to continue the association's partnership with the leading telecommunication company to further strengthen the badminton program in the CNMI.

"Pre-COVID, IT&E spon-

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Miami Heat players and coaching staff pose with their medals after winning the U15 championship of the 2021 NMI Rollers Summer Bash last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

tournament as a team. Actually we made it to the championship! It's pretty historic for the girls. I'm just so proud of them. I started actually with just a six-girl squad and now we have a 12-girl roster."

The Sparks advanced to the finals after a 14-13 upset of the Utah Jazz team in the semifinals that had Lumabi all excited about the future of women's basketball in the CNMI.

"I'm excited to what is to come for women's basketball in the CNMI. I'm actually part of those trying out for the CNMI Women's National Team. I have three of my younger girls trying out with me. Women's basketball in the CNMI is going to be exciting!" she said.

Results of the U9 and U12 divisions of the 2021 NMI Rollers Summer Bash will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Miami Heat 30 – Caraig 12, Estolas 9, Yue 4, Regalado 3, Erich 2.

LA Sparks 9 – Travilla 5, Bucalig 4.

tournaments to our players amid the difficult situation we are in," Tolentino said.

In last year's IT&E-sponsored event, NMBA had six doubles competition. This year, NMBA is implementing a different tournament format. The team event will both have singles and doubles games with each squad playing at least games per pairing. Points will be given to teams per game with 3 points awarded for a match won in two games and 2 for a three-game victory. The squad with the most points at the end of the round-robin tournament will be declared as champion.

NMBA will also follow players' classification (Level A, B, and C) in the pairing of games for this weekend's competition, basing the leveling from the results of its first event of the season—the TanHoldings Badminton Team Tournament held last month.

Team contending are Shirley's Badminton Club, which won the TanHoldings event, Taga Badminton Club, Community Badminton Club, United Badminton Club and Golden Racquet. (PR)

finish was a surprise since he hasn't competed in an open water swim in 15 years,

"This was my first ocean swim since 2006. The conditions on Saturday were not great, but we still had to work with what we had. I was not used to swimming in the ocean, so it was difficult for me to adjust. It was fun being able to race the younger generation of Tsunami swimmers, and a good test of endurance."

Braxton topped the women's 1,500m by clocking in at 19:12.17 to beat fellow Tsunami Saipan tankers Julia Jinang and Ayumi Obligacion, who timed in at 19:21.22 and 20:13.26, respectively.

"Although the water was rough, we still managed to

sored our only competition in 2020. This year, despite the challenges the pandemic has brought to us, we're on our way to our second tournament. Thanks to the support and commitment of businesses like IT&E, we're able to provide

have the race and everyone did great. I'm looking forward to the next race," she said in echoing the rough conditions due to the large swells.

Jinang said she's very glad they were able to push through with the swim meet even though the weather was harsh. "Seeing the improvement in my teammates and I boosted my spirits and I can't wait for the next event."

Obligacion thanked all the parents and volunteers that made last Saturday's open water swim happen despite the inclement weather.

"Even if the weather was horrible that day, I would like to congratulate all swimmers that swam and didn't gave up, especially the little kids. I'm

looking forward for the next meet on September and I hope that everyone gets their best times on that day."

Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series was sanctioned by the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation and is the second of three events, which main purpose is to choose four swimmers (top two men and top two women) that will represent the CNMI in the 2021 FINA World Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates this coming December.

Results of the 20m for beginners, 50m for intermediate, 100m for advanced, 500m open, 1,000m open, and 1,000m qualifier will be published in the next issues of the *Saipan Tribune*.



If shots don't fall
in Olympics, not
a surprise when
US does

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Heat beat all-girls
Sparks in U15 finals

PAGE 19



20 TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Training camp to gauge NMI U18's progress



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI Boys U18 National Team coaches and players gather for a group photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday morning before heading out to Guam for a training camp at the Guam Football Association National Training Center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team is now in Guam for a training camp and will use the event to gauge its progress after more than a year of exclusively training on island under the challenging COVID-19 restrictions.

The 21-player squad left Saipan early yesterday morning and began its training camp last night at the Guam Guam Football Association

National Training Center in Dededo. The squad is made up of Aloyzeus Angeles, Dev Bachani, Anthony Bergancia, Taka Borja, John Eze-

kiel Canape, Kadne Church, Jeremia Diaz, Kohtaro Goto, Ruben Guerrero, Dane Hodges, Akira Kadamura, Brian Lubao, Ariel Narvaez, Daniel Pablo, Reginald Pascual, Jason Quimzon, Andrew Sablan, Richard Steele, Rinto Takahashi, and Markus and Merrick Toves. Completing the delegation are head coach Mich-iteru Mita, coach Jersh Angeles, assistant coach Martin Jambor, and team manager Ronnel Ocanada.

"This training camps for both NMI U18 and NMI Women's have a great significance to our national team

program's progress. This is our first international trip and play since the pandemic. Although all international tournaments were postponed, our national teams have continued training for one year and half now," Mita said.

"Our national team players have continued to hard work and remain motivated for future tournaments.

These training camps give our players the opportunity to evaluate our progress and direction," the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

See TRAINING on Page 19



Isaiah, Aoi top 1,500m open water swim

By MARK RABAGO
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Isaiah Aleksen and Aoi Braxton made mincemeat of choppy seas to win the 1,500m course of Saipan Swimming Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series early Saturday morning in the churning waters off the Civic Center Beach in Susupe.

Aleksenko, of Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan, was the first to touch the flag in the longest race of the day with a time of 15:05.23. He was followed by teammate Kean Pajarillaga and vacationing Daisuke Fitial at 16:09.59 and 16:22.19, respectively.

"I really enjoyed this ocean swim, because it was a different experience. It was a different experience because the water was very rough and it was a challenge to push through the water. I'm very thankful for being able to participate in the ocean swim and I'm very thankful for all the support and

See ISIAH on Page 19



Aleksenko

Song hums in 200m, 800m; Gabrielle upsets Tiana in 800m

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Ken Song momentarily traded his tennis racquet for running shoes and proceeded to run the fastest 200m and 800m in Northern Marianas Athletics' Track and Field Open Meet held last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The Pacific Games gold medalist in tennis was the fleetest afoot in the 200m, crossing the finish line in 26.47 to beat out Orrin Pharmin (27.19) and Beouch Ngirchongor (28.98) in the men's open.

"Yeah I've never ran the 200 and I've never been a short distance runner so I was pretty shocked," Song told *Saipan Tribune*.

Theo Rodgers won the men's 18-and-under 200m with a time of 26.54 to narrowly beat out Charles McDonald at 26.78. Third place in the division went to youngster Leon Dela Cruz at 27.66. In the masters 50-and-over, Kosuke Sato submitted



Race



Song

a time of 28.02.

Song also topped the men's open 800m with a time of 2:19.10, followed by Edward Dela Cruz and Jalen Lucido who clocked in at 2:29.96 and 2:38.69, respectively.

Sildrey Veloria beat Theo Rodgers in the 18-and-under, 2:33.35-2:35.15. In the men's 50-and-over, Sato continued to defy Father Time with a second overall best of 2:22.37. Dr. Ron Snyder topped the men's 55-59 with a time of 3:18.17.

"I'm honestly more surprised I was able to win the 800 because I haven't been training running for about a year," said Song.

When asked if he will be giving up tennis for track in next year's Pacific Mini Games the CNMI will be hosting for the very first time, Song said he will try to do both.

"I'm not gonna switch but I will actually train track for the Mini Games," he said.

Gabrielle Race, meanwhile, was true to her last name and celebrated a triumphant return to the track by win-

See SONG on Page 19